

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – the Anglican congregation in Kyiv

Image of the day

Anglicans in Kyiv ask for prayers for peace

The Church of England congregation in Kyiv, capital of Ukraine, has asked Anglicans to pray for peace. Christ Church parish has been overwhelmed with support by messages from across the world.

“Please pray for peace for Ukraine and Eastern and Central Europe,” said church warden Christina Laschenko-Stafiychuk.

“I would like to thank to all our friends from the Anglican Communion who wrote and called us during last few days to express their support and solidarity in prayer.

“There are too many to mention by name, but just to mention some congregations from across the UK, Brussels, and in Moscow.

“Our thanks also to the Diocese in Europe and the Canterbury Cathedral Garden Congregation for their special prayers for a peaceful settlement in the last week.”

The congregation of Christ Church meets in the German Lutheran Church in central Kyiv

. Born out of a small prayer group, the parish moved to its current site in 2001.

With the support of the Diocese in Europe, the congregation has relied on locum (or non-permanent) priests although is hoping for a more permanent solution.

With a regular community of between 10 and 22 people, Christ Church draws its congregation from across the world and Ukraine.

“We are still meeting regularly,” she said, despite embassies calling for foreign nationals to leave.

“Ukrainians have no other options: this is our land, and we are read to stand for it – and for our identity as well.”

Conflict in Ukraine began in 2014 following democracy protests in Kyiv.

The later invasion by Russia, the seizure of Crimea, and the support of separatists in Eastern Ukraine have destabilised the region.

It is now estimated tens of thousands of troops are massed on the border.

“Of course, we are scared. But we are better prepared than eight years ago,” Christina said.

Despite tensions, 18 people attended the morning service last Sunday, followed by a Bible study attended by eight congregants.

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The parish, which sits less than 20 minutes-walk from the famous Maidan Square, now continue to ask the global Anglican community to join with them in a prayer for peace.

People and places

The Church of Ireland Church and Society Commission

Irish Churches Creation Care Conference

8th April 2022
Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry

Explore the theology and mission response to the
climate and nature emergency.

With

Rev Dr. Chris Wright
Professor Katharine Hayhoe
Dr Ruth Valerio, Tearfund
Rev Bob Kikuyu, Christian Aid

Panel of Senior Church Leaders
Hannah Malcolm, Radio 4

£20 inc lunch
CreationCareConference.eventbrite.co.uk

Irish Churches Creation Care Conference

The conference will explore the theology and mission of creation care with leading theologians, mission practitioners and senior church leaders.

Speakers:

Rev Dr. Chris Wright, Theologian

Prof Katharine Hayhoe, Distinguished Climate Scientist

Dr Ruth Valerio, Director of Global Advocacy and Influencing at Tearfund,

Rev Bob Kikuyu, Global Advisor for Theology and Church Partnerships, Christian Aid

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Archbishop John McDowell, Primate of All Ireland
Rev Dr. David Bruce, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church
in Ireland

Rev Dr. Sahr Yambasu, President of the Methodist Church
in Ireland

Bishop Martin Hayes, Laudato Si' coordinating bishop for
the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Hannah Malcolm, Anglican ordinand and Radio 4 Thought
for the Day contributor

Justin Kilcullen, Trocaire

This one day conference on 8th April 2022 starts at 10:00
am and runs until 4:00 pm. Lunch is included in the
conference fee of £20.

A limited number of Bed and Breakfast rooms are available
in the conference centre. Please contact the organisers if
you would like to book B&B the night before the conference.

Date and time - Fri, 8 April 2022. 10:00 – 16:00 BST

Location - Dromantine Conference Centre, 96 Glen Road,
Newry, BT34 1RH

Booking at -

[[] <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/irish-churches-creation-care-conference-tickets-250651424157>]

Christ Church, Lisburn, celebrates Ugandan school partnership

Christ Church Parish, Lisburn, is holding a special service
on Sunday February 27 to give thanks for the 10th



Some of the members of a Christ Church Parish team with pupils of St Apollo School during a past visit to Uganda.

anniversary of the opening of two new school blocks at St Apollo School, Kisizi, Uganda.

Beginning at 6.30pm, this will be a service of celebration with stories and memories shared – team members have pre-recorded some material and a couple of parishioners and clergy will speak on the night.

It will be a celebration, giving thanks to the Lord for this gospel and educational partnership. The rector, Archdeacon Paul Dundas, will be the preacher. There will be input from the charity Fields of Life, and a video from some of the children along with contributions from CMS Ireland.



The celebration service will be livestreamed on YouTube.

Archdeacon Dundas said: “Ten years have passed since the first team left for the school in February 2012 having raised over £75,000 for the two school blocks.

The parish has sent three teams in 2012, 2015 and 2017 and a fourth team had planned to go in 2020.

“It was a journey into the unknown and yet the Lord has shaped this partnership and blessed it at so many levels.”

Archdeacon Dundas has been working on a small book highlighting some aspects of this partnership and he hopes to have it for the service. The book title is Never Lose Hope, the motto of St Apollo School.

Books cost £3 and all of the donation will go directly to St Apollo School.

Pre-booking is not required, but all attending will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask and will be seated in a socially-distanced manner by the welcome team.



St Columb's Derry at the Oxford Union

Archbishop Eamon Martin was speaking recently at the Oxford Union. He was joined by two members of the Class of 2016 from St Columb's - Michael Hegarty and Peter Madden.

News reports

Church of England seeks to improve its public witness

The Church of England has appointed Bishop Graham Tomlin to oversee its new Centre for Cultural Witness.

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Tomlin will step down in August from his current role as Bishop of Kensington to lead the centre, which will be based at the Archbishop of Canterbury's official residence, Lambeth Palace.

The centre will explore how the Church can better communicate the Christian faith as part of its public witness.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, called the launch of the centre "timely, creative and essential", and said he hoped that the initiative would "excite, inspire and engage many with Jesus Christ, and the joy and wonder of his kingdom".

"We are living in times – and in a world – that urgently need healing, justice and hope. In other words: a world that needs the gospel of Jesus Christ and the good news of his kingdom," he said.

"Giving expression to that good news is the task of every new generation of Christians."

The Church of England said the centre would be "rooted in the Anglican church but fully ecumenical and international", and "embrace a wide range of Christian voices to seek to share the rich wisdom that the Christian faith can offer contemporary societies".

Bishop Tomlin said the work of the new centre was about giving the Church a "clearer voice".

"We have a remarkable story in the Christian faith that has shaped cultures over centuries in profound ways," he said.

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"Yet we need to find better ways to communicate that faith so that others can understand and believe it today.

"My hope and prayer is that this new initiative can help re-tell that story in imaginative ways for new generations and enable the Church to find a clearer voice to share its wisdom with others."

The centre will have its formal launch in the summer and will initially run as a four-year project.

The Bishop of Aston, Anne Hollinghurst, a member of the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission, said the centre was much-needed at a time of widespread division and inequality in society.

"Our society faces multiple challenges for which it appears ill-equipped," she said.

"The global pandemic has highlighted the divisions and inequalities in society. Issues of racial and climate justice demand urgent attention. Digital communication and artificial intelligence are changing how we live.

"At the same time there is disillusionment with political and economic systems and those who run them. There is a need to lift up the eyes of our nation to a new horizon of hope.

"That horizon is what the timeless good news of Jesus Christ reveals but we often struggle as the church in our contemporary culture to speak engagingly of the compelling beauty, sweep and relevance of this horizon."



Fairtrade Festival: 'Choose the world you want'

For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, churches and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid. The exact dates of Fairtrade Fortnight are 21 February to 6 March 2022.

In 2022, an online festival - 'Choose the World you Want' - will run throughout Fairtrade Fortnight. Campaigners, shoppers, students and businesses will show support for the farmers behind our food on the front line of the climate crisis. From online panels and quiz nights to bake-offs and coffee mornings supporters will share the power of Fairtrade and what needs to happen next to ensure farmers and

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workers are put front and centre of conversations on how to tackle the climate crisis.

Since last Fairtrade Fortnight we have seen the G7 and COP26 take place. Over 33,000 campaigners joined 1.8m Fairtrade farmers and workers in backing the 'Be Fair With Your Climate Promise' challenge to world leaders at the UN COP26 summit. But frustration came as the wealthiest nations failed to recognise the urgent need to invest in farmer expertise by delaying their promised \$100bn annual funding to the most climate vulnerable countries until 2023. We need to be louder than ever to make sure politicians turn their promises into action at COP27 in Egypt later this year.

The Fairtrade Foundation was founded in 1992 by CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Traidcraft, the World Development Movement and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Fairtrade is about social, economic and environmental justice. Choosing Fairtrade fights for improvements in producers' livelihoods with collective strength through co-ops and their bargaining power, the protection of a Minimum Price and Fairtrade Premiums.

LINK

[www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose-the-world-you-want/]

In the media

Cork landmark damaged during Storm Franklin

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RTE

High winds brought by Storm Franklin have taken their toll on one of Cork city's best-known landmarks - the cross on the roof of the Church of the Ascension in Gurrabraher. The 15-foot-high cross, which can be widely seen on its site above the city, was damaged by the strong winds. The church was also forced to close for public safety reasons.

[[] <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2022/0221/1282058-cork-landmark-damaged-during-storm-franklin/>]

Trócaire urges immediate action for food crisis in Somalia

Vatican News

The overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland is urging international donors to intervene to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe ...

Trócaire, the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland, is calling on the international community to take urgent action for Somalia, where millions of people are on the brink of severe hunger.

[[] <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2022-02/trocaire-urges-immediate-action-for-food-crisis-in-somalia.html>]

Years of the French: why the Huguenots fled to Ireland

RTE

Analysis: about 10,000 Huguenots are thought to have come to Ireland in the late 17th century fleeing religious persecution in France. By Nora Baker, University of Oxford

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You may have passed by the Huguenot cemetery in Dublin or you may have walked down French Church Street if you've been to Cork. But how much do we know about the individual lives and experiences of the people who fled here in the late 17th century?

The term 'Huguenot' is of uncertain origin, but it is generally taken to mean a French-speaking Protestant. In the mid- to late 1500s, France went through a period of great turmoil during what came to be known as the Wars of Religion between Catholics and Protestants. The St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572 saw an estimated 5,000 Protestants killed, and the River Seine was said to have been dyed red with blood. Things calmed down a bit after 1598, when King Henri IV issued the Edict of Nantes, which gave Protestants the right to practise their religion.

[[] <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2022/0216/1281144-huguenots-ireland-france-religion-persecution-17th-century/>]

Evangelicals must stop consulting themselves for guidance

RNS

The United States cannot afford to give evangelicalism the benefit of the doubt again, and evangelicals cannot afford to just talk among themselves any longer.

Recently, New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote a long opinion piece he called “The Dissenters Trying to Save Evangelicalism From Itself.” The “dissenters” Brooks cited included such well-known evangelical figures as Russell Moore and Tim Keller, as well as other familiar figures such

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as Karen Swallow Prior, Thabiti Anyabwile and Lecrae Moore. Brooks also interviewed scholar Kristin Kobes Du Mez, though her evangelical pedigree is regularly challenged by evangelical pundits disturbed by both the content and popularity of her book “Jesus and John Wayne.”

What Brooks’ framing fails to acknowledge, however, is that there’s never been a lack of dissenters — pastors and laypeople — calling on and conversing with evangelicalism to do better, to resist the now-complete ingratiation of evangelical political will with the worst elements of today’s GOP.

[[] <https://religionnews.com/2022/02/17/evangelicals-must-stop-consulting-themselves-for-guidance/>]

First anniversary of Fr Enda McDonagh's death marked in Maynooth

Irish Times

The death of Fr Enda McDonagh a year ago saw Ireland lose “one of its most original and important theologians”, a memorial event has heard.

Trinity College Dublin professor of ecumenics Linda Hogan said Fr McDonagh had a profound impact on the “Irish theological landscape” and that “his distinctive voice brought him international acclaim”.

She recalled how his “wisdom was sought by politicians and diplomats, by business leaders, humanitarians and artists who recognised what the late [theologian] Vincent MacNamara noted as his ‘talent for humanity’”.

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She was speaking at a special ceremony in Maynooth on Sunday held to mark the first anniversary of Fr McDonagh's death, which was hosted by the president of St Patrick's College Fr Michael Mullaney.

[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/first-anniversary-of-fr-enda-mcdonagh-s-death-marked-in-maynooth-1.4807588>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Lent 2022

A seven-week Bible study to guide you through Lent.

[Download PDF](#)

IRISH METHODIST WORLD MISSION PARTNERSHIP

WORLD CHURCH LENTEN REFLECTIONS

A seven-week Bible study to guide you through Lent, written by the Methodist Churches in Ghana, Ireland, Poland & Togo.

Together, growing God's world Church
irishmethodist.org/world-mission

International Methodist resource for Lent

Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership has co-ordinated a new seven-week Bible study to guide you through Lent, written by the Methodist Church in

Ghana, Ireland, Poland and Togo.

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Lent starts on Wednesday 2nd March! Read more and download your copy here: <https://bit.ly/3BoEIUb>

Lenten Lectio Divina from Maynooth



Aspal
called and sent

The Kiss of Christ.

FR SÉAMUS O'CONNELL
St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth will resource and guide the course

Introduction (online) · Week of February 14 2022
Lectio Live (1) · Wednesday 23rd February 2022, 7.30-9pm
Deeper Reading (online) · Week of February 28 2022
Lectio Live (2) · Wednesday 9th March 2022, 7.30-9pm
The Word and Life (online) · Week of March 14 2022
Lectio Live (3) · Wednesday 23rd March 2022, 7.30-9pm
The Word and Silence (online) · Week of March 28 2022
Lectio Live (4) · Wednesday 6th April 2022, 7.30-9pm

THE KISS OF CHRIST is a short hybrid course (online and at home/in parish) to introduce the way of *lectio divina* and to support those who would wish to practice it during Lent 2022

Further information and to register your interest online (€10/pp Registration)
www.aspal.ie

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ALLCHURCHES TRUST LIMITED
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email info@aspal.ie
web www.aspal.ie

Alternating between brief presentations which may be accessed at any point, and live lectio sessions, this short

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course will provide a pathway through lectio divina while participants journey with the Sunday gospels of Lent.

Visit maynoothcollege.ie/aspal for more information.

The Kitchen Table project

kitchen table project
Inspire a faith that lasts

Building faith in your 0 to 1-year-old

There is so much joy in caring for a newborn, as well as tiredness and hard work! It's a precious time, and just being there to care for them and meet their needs is building a foundation of love and trust on which their faith will grow.

There are some significant elements that help children to grow in their faith - here are some ideas for this particular stage of your child's development.

Home
Babies need to feel loved and safe. Offering warm touch, smiles and eye contact as you meet their physical and emotional needs creates a deep sense of security. You are showing them...

Prayer
They hear you. You can use it your routine you and see show when you hold them the parent.

Building faith in your 3 to 5-year-old

Children are learning lots as they play and there is beauty in their creativity. Their imaginations and physical capabilities are growing and they are beginning to have a sense of time - the past and future. You may find that they swing from being independent to wanting to be cared for as a 'baby'. They are still looking to you as their safe place.

There are some significant elements that help children to grow strong foundations in their faith. Here are some ideas for this particular stage of your child's development.

Home
Help your children work through their feelings and emotions by playing with them, giving focused attention and offering language to help them talk about how they feel.

Prayer
Simple prayers still work well at this stage. A good structure might be 'thank you', 'sorry' and 'help'. You can link these prayers to their growing understanding and encourage them to pray for their family and friends.

Building faith in your 7 to 9-year-old

Children are becoming aware that not everyone is like them. They'll begin to understand love and not in God. Identify influenced friends

Home
Your child will be trying to find their place in their friendship groups and the world. They may have a greater sense of justice, acceptance, fairness and compassion for others. Working with your child's temperament and interests to help them express themselves is so valuable at this stage.

Prayer
At this stage children may be able to concentrate for longer and can become absorbed in something they're interested in. Finding ways to connect with God through a game that grabs them, such as Scripture Union's Guardians of Ancora, may work well for your child. You can help them to develop their own relationship with God as they use some age-appropriate Bible reading notes or you share everyday stories of how God speaks to you.

Be respectful
Talking about different people's opinions, values and how they may differ from yours, helps understand and respect others. It also reinforces that not always have to be influenced by or have as others.

Influence
Even though there is so much of children's attention and influence can be louder than all the noise, you are the greatest influence in developing faith!

Be respectful
Peer pressure can help them to do something for you.

The Kitchen Table Project is a faith-based initiative for Christian parents, carers, church leaders and children. Check out our website to find out more about the elements that build faith, as well as a variety of books.

Care for the Family is a Christian initiative to strengthen family life. A registered charity (England and Wales: 1043805; Scotland: SC038497). cft.org.uk

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Church of Ireland Board for Ministry with Children & Families

This week's focus is on ways to encourage families to teach and develop their children's faith through the simple tasks at home.

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Before looking at specific ideas it is important for families to understand the developmental stages of the children they are talking to. (There is no point discussing the finer points of eschatology with your 3 year old! ;)

The Kitchen Table project have some simple straightforward leaflets that give a great overview of ways to connect in age appropriate levels and things to consider about each stage of development.

You can download them for free here:

[<http://ow.ly/3R3O50I06wk>]

Poem for today

Derry Morning by Derek Mahon

The mist clears and the cavities
Glow black in the rubble city's
Broke mouth. An early crone,
Muse of a fitful revolution
Wasted by the fray, she sees
Her aisling falter in the breeze,
Her oak-grove vision hesitate
By empty wharf and city gate.

Here it began, and here at least
It fades into the finite past
Or seems to: clattering shadows whop
Mechanically over pub and shop.
A strangely pastoral silence rules
The shining roofs and murmuring schools

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For this is how the centuries work –
Two steps forward, one step back.

Hard to believe this tranquil place,
Its desolation almost peace,
Was recently a boom-town wild
With expectation, each unscheduled
Incident a measurable
Tremor of the Richter Scale
Of world events, each vibrant scene
Translated to the drizzling screen.

What of the change evisioned here,
The quantum leap from fear to fire?
Smoke from a thousand chimneys strains
One way beneath the returning rains
That shroud the bomb-sites, while the fog
Of time receives the ideologue.
A Russian freighter bound for home
Mourns to the city in its gloom.

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

