

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Corrymeela Horizons volunteers**

## Image of the day

### Corrymeela Horizons volunteers

#### **There's still time to apply to become a Horizons Volunteer at Corrymeela**

“As a Horizons volunteer, you’ll have the opportunity to spend a year living at our Ballycastle Centre, assisting our teams as they deliver programmes for groups from different backgrounds and enabling participants to nurture deeper relationships and explore how to live well together”.

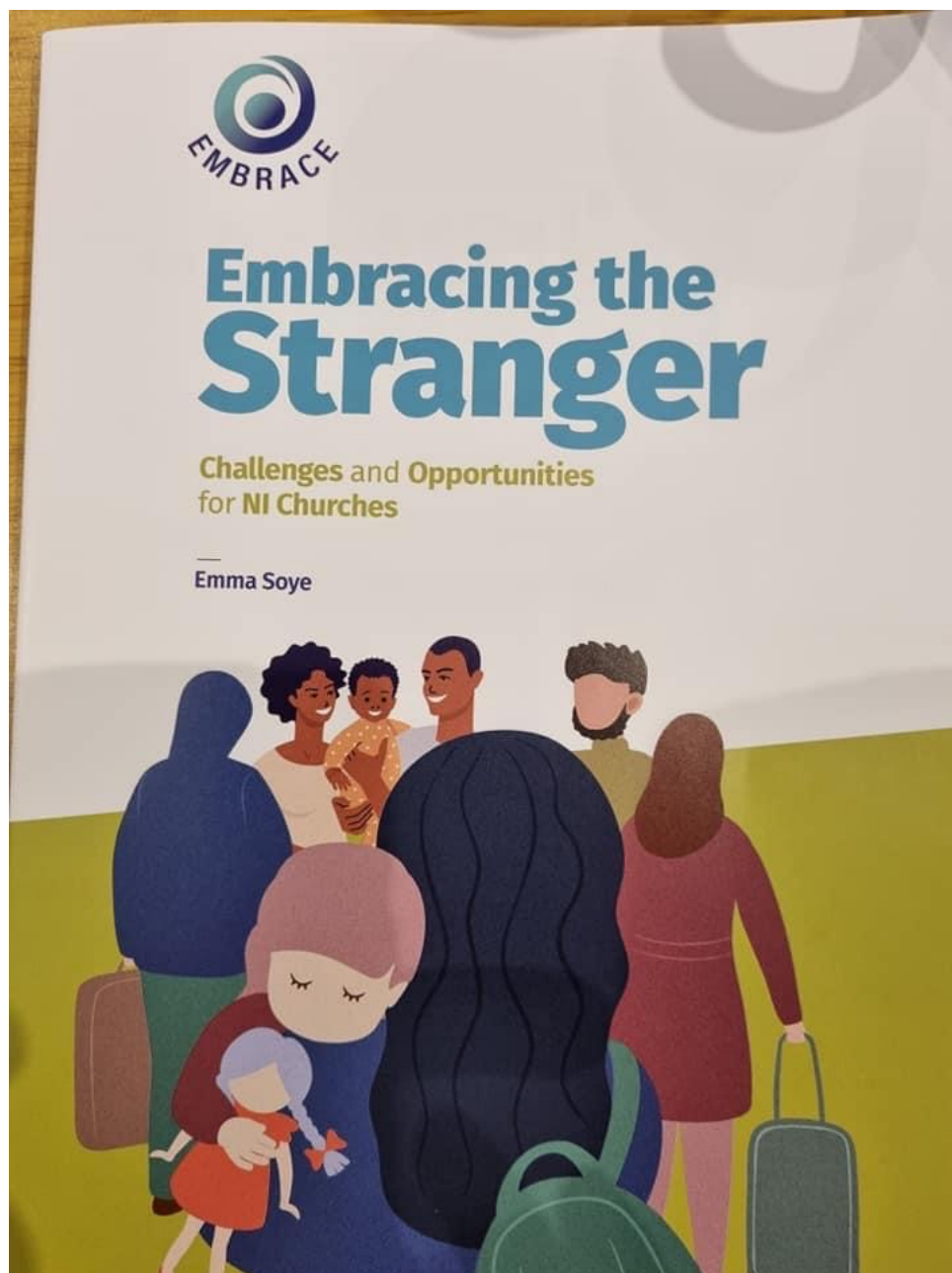
Find out more and apply now: [corrymeela.org/volunteer](https://corrymeela.org/volunteer)

## People and places

### **Embracing the Stranger - A new report by Embrace NI**

A new report *Embracing the Stranger* was launched at St Bride's Parish Hall, Derryvolgie Avenue recently. There was an excellent attendance for a presentation by researcher Dr Emma Soye.

Northern Ireland is becoming richer in its diversity of culture and ethnicity as it becomes home to an increasing number of people from other countries.



EMBRACE is a group of Christians working together to promote positive responses to people seeking asylum, refugees, migrant workers and people from minority ethnic backgrounds in Northern Ireland. The group seeks to reflect Matthew 25:35 'I was a stranger and you made me welcome'

EMBRACE seeks to equip the church to fulfil its call to welcome our new neighbours, by providing information, training, materials and channels for practical help. "In doing

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this we seek to build a community which welcomes and respects diversity.”

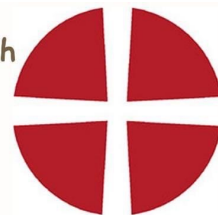
Lots of sharing went on at the meeting in St Bride’s.  
<https://www.embraceni.org/>

## New Baby & Toddler Group at Carnalea Methodist Church

A new Baby & Toddler Group - Joyful Noises, will begin on Friday 3rd March, from 10:00-11:45 at Carnalea Methodist Church, Bangor.



Carnalea Methodist Church  
56A Rathmore Road  
Bangor



# Joyful Noises

Baby & Toddler Group  
Fridays 10:00-11:45  
(Term Time Only)

## All Welcome

Suggested  
Donation £2

No school-aged  
children please



Find us on Facebook for more info



“We will start with playtime, then healthy snack for the children followed by tea and coffee for the grown-ups.



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“We will finish the session with story time and some music with percussion instruments. Any questions, just ask! Please feel free to share”.

## Cross-community fundraising concert for North West Cancer Centre


Bishop Andrew Forster and Bishop Donal McKeown will be among the audience in St Columb's Cathedral, on Friday 31st March, at a cross-community fundraising concert which is being held in aid of the North West Cancer Centre.

AMAZING  
CROSS-COMMUNITY  
**VARIETY  
CONCERT**  
ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL  
**FRIDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH**  
FUNDRAISING FOR  
NORTH WEST CANCER CENTRE

Hugo Duncan to Compere and Sing, featuring other talented solosists, bands, Irish & Scottish dancers  
with  
Special Star Guests:  
**Frs. Eugene & Martin O'Hagan**  
from  
**THE PRIESTS**

TICKETS    £15  
OAPs       £12.50       Starts 7.30pm  
Children    £10

Tickets available at:  
Diocesan Office, 24 London Street, Londonderry  
& Altnagelvin Garden Centre, Londonderry

  
Derry City & Strabane District Council  
Comhairle Chathair Dhoire & Chomhairle an tSrátha Báin  
Derry City & Strabane District Council

We acknowledge the financial support from Derry & Strabane District Council

The event, which will begin at 7.30pm, is being compered by Country & Western star and radio personality Hugo Duncan,

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and among the performers will be guest stars Fr Eugene and Fr Martin O'Hagan from 'The Priests'

Tickets are available online at the following link; <https://bit.ly/NWCC-concert>

Tickets can also be bought from the following places: City Hotel reception; the Diocesan Office (24 London Street); Curry's Spar, Culmore; All Saints Clooney Parish office (opposite Old Waterside Health Centre); Glendermott Parish Church office; and Altnagelvin Garden Centre.



## **Cappella Caeciliana - Bach St John Passion**

**Cappella Caeciliana presents Bach's masterpiece the St John Passion, performed in the atmospheric and evocative setting of Crumlin Road Gaol.**

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Conducted by Matthew Quinn the performance takes place on Palm Sunday in the atmospheric and evocative setting of Crumlin Road Gaol. The work will be sung in English, with orchestra.

Refreshments will be provided.

This is a Good Friday Agreement 25th anniversary event.

Supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Capacity is limited - buy now to avoid disappointment - Eventbrite.



**OPEN CALL**  
Are you aged 11-24 and love to sing?



**2nd March 2023**  
**Audition Date**

**Malone Presbyterian Church Hall, Belfast 6-8pm**



Visit: [www.nycni.org](http://www.nycni.org) to book

**National Youth Choir Northern Ireland**

## Choir seeks engagements

The Belfast Phoenix Choir is open for business! “We are now taking bookings for small events and services. Just email [thebelfasphoenixchoir@gmail.com](mailto:thebelfasphoenixchoir@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook for information”.

## Celebrations in Clogher’s cathedrals

**A 400th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service will be held on Friday 24th March – in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen at 7.30pm to acknowledge and give thanks for 400 years of worship.**





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The preacher will be The Most Revd F John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh. An invitation is extended to family, friends, neighbours and anyone who has had previous connections with the Parish.

The 64th annual Friends' Service for Clogher Cathedral will be held on Sunday 26th March at 3.00pm. It is normally held on the Sunday closest to St Macartan's Day (24th March). The preacher is Bishop Ian Ellis. Tea will be served in the Cathedral Hall after the service and this will be followed by the Friends' Annual General Meeting. Friends are asked to make a special effort to attend this year as no meeting has now been held since 2019.

## Pancake Giveaway in Ballyclare



The Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth and team distributed free pancakes on Ash Wednesday morning.

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As schools were closed on Pancake Tuesday due to the teachers' strike, the United Parish of Christ Church and St John, Ballyclare, decided to move its annual Pancake Giveaway to Ash Wednesday morning. Approximately 250 pancakes were distributed and enjoyed.

## News reports

### New papal nuncio appointed to Ireland

**Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor has been appointed as the new papal nuncio for Ireland.**

The appointment, confirmed by the Vatican on Saturday morning, was welcomed by the Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, who said he would look forward to meeting the new envoy for Pope Francis when he relocates to Ireland.

Argentinian-born Archbishop Montemayor is currently serving as the papal nuncio in Colombia.

He replaces Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, who left Ireland for Prague last year after serving a five year term in this country during which he appointed 12 bishops, or almost half the current membership of the Irish Episcopal Conference.

“I very much welcome today’s news that Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor as

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Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland,” Archbishop Martin said.

“I pray God’s blessings on Archbishop Mariano and look forward to meeting with him when he takes up his appointment in Ireland in the near future.”

Archbishop Montemayor was born in 1956 in Buenos Aires, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1985.



He has served roles within the Catholic Church’s diplomatic corps in in Ethiopia and Brazil before being appointed papal nuncio for Senegal, Guinea-Bissau e Capo Verde in 2008.

He also served as the papal nuncio in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He speaks fluent Spanish, Italian, French, English, and Portuguese.

Course The. Irish Times. Report by Connor Pope

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## **Archbishop of Canterbury pays tribute to aid workers killed rescuing elderly woman in Ukraine**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury has paid tribute to aid workers killed in Ukraine.**

British and New Zealand aid workers Christopher Parry and Andrew Bagshaw were killed as they tried to rescue an elderly woman from an area of intense military action.

Their car was hit by an artillery shell.

Truro-raised Chris Parry had been raising money via a GoFundMe page in order to support his aid work. He had amassed more than £23,000 at the time of his death.

The 28-year old had been detailing his experiences online in order to raise funds. He used some of the funds to buy a 7-seater Toyota that allowed him to rescue trapped families and transport them to safety.

In collaboration with the the Primates of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Archbishop Justin said he had “deep respect for their sacrifice.”

The 24th February 2022 saw Russian tanks roll across the border after weeks of threats. Within days, aid workers landed on Ukrainian soil to help provide relief to those that had already sustained serious injuries from missile attacks, or helping refugees now fleeing their homes.



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The tribute from the Anglican clergy said there was “no moral justification for Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine” and applauded Christopher and Andrew for not “standing by” in the “face of such immoral aggression”.

The group “demand Russia's immediate withdrawal and ceasefire,” and called on all nations to contribute to “the subsequent healing and rebuilding of the sovereign nation of Ukraine.”

The statement was signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev Philip Richardson; Bishop of Waikato and Taranaki, Most Revd Don Tamihere and Revd Sione Ulu’ilakepa, Bishop-elect of Polynesia.

## **Primus thanks departing First Minister for pandemic commitment**

Commenting on the First Minister’s decision to step down from her position, the Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, said: “Nicola Sturgeon has dedicated much of her life to public service as a local politician, a national political leader and on international political platforms.

“As Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, I was acutely aware of the pressure that the Covid pandemic placed upon us all and I was thankful that throughout that time the First Minister enabled regular and at times difficult conversations to take place between Government and church leaders and leaders across faith groups.

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“May we all wish her a more restful time in the months to come.”

## In the media

### Scottish Catholic Church warns against anti-Christian bias in public life

**Scotland runs the risk of denying public service to people with “talent and ability” if people with strong Christian convictions are kept from public office, according to the spokesperson for the country’s Catholic Church, Charles Collins writes in Crux.**

Scottish Finance Secretary Kate Forbes is running to replace Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who announced she was resigning on Feb. 15.

However, Forbes – a member of the Free Church of Scotland – has come under fire for her personal belief in traditional marriage norms, including saying having children outside of marriage “would be wrong according to my faith.”

She addressed the concerns in a post she published Thursday on her social media platforms.

“I feel greatly burdened that some of my responses to questions in the media have caused hurt, which was never my intention as I sought to answer questions clearly. I will defend to the hilt the right of everybody in Scotland, particularly minorities, to live and to live without fear or

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harassment in a pluralistic and tolerant society,” Forbes wrote.

“I will uphold the laws that have been won, as a servant of democracy, and seek to enhance the rights of everybody to live in a way which enables them to flourish. I firmly believe in the inherent dignity of each human being – that underpins all ethical and political decisions I make,” she said.

In an interview with The Herald, Catholic Church spokesperson Peter Kearney claimed that in Scotland’s “pursuit of diversity we have embraced conformity.”

“There is absolutely an intolerance of certain types of difference. We are less tolerant of people’s religious orientations. Some of the things that have been said about religious opinions leave a lot of Catholics and a lot of Christians feeling marginalized,” he told the Scottish daily publication.

“Human rights law describes certain ‘protected characteristics’, among them: Race, gender and sexual orientation, which cannot be used as a basis for discrimination. It is important that we remember religion is also a protected characteristic, deserving of respect,” Kearney said.

“If someone was deemed unsuited to office on the basis of any other protected characteristic there would, quite rightly, be outraged and indignant reactions. As a society we will be guilty of hypocrisy if we don’t defend everyone’s right to freely hold, manifest and express their religious beliefs,” he told the newspaper.

He brought up the recent Gender Recognition Reform Bill, which would have made it easier to obtain a Gender Recognition Certificate, which is legal recognition of a change in birth gender, including lowering the age to receive such a certificate to 16.

Most of the major parties in Scotland – including the ruling Scottish National Party (SNP), Labour, Greens and Liberal Democrats – refused to allow members to vote their conscience on the bill. The legislation passed, but was later blocked by the national government in London.

“The political parties should have allowed a free vote on the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. It is a very obvious example of a contentious moral issue,” Kearney told The Herald.

“The danger here of not allowing individuals to vote according to their conscience is that it will dramatically reduce the pool of people who want to go into parliament. People will believe their views won’t be respected. We run the risk of denying ourselves people with talent and ability,” he told the newspaper.

“We do have evidence that this debate is leaving people feeling very, very uncomfortable,” he continued, citing a poll by a Catholic group on the issue.

“It’s difficult to imagine anyone entering elected politics who didn’t have ‘deeply held views’, whether they are economic, social, environmental or religious views shouldn’t matter.



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What matters is that they don't impose those views on others, but instead respect differences," he told The Herald.

"Previously this was possible by political parties allowing certain moral matters such as: Abortion, same sex marriage and assisted suicide, to be treated as matters of conscience, where parliamentarians were permitted to vote freely in accordance with their conscience. This was an example of tolerance, sadly it has given way to conformity in politics," he said.

Despite the controversy in the media over Forbes's religious beliefs, she has the most support in the first poll of SNP voters. She is the preferred choice of 28 percent of party members. Scottish Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has 20 percent, and former Minister for Community Safety Ash Regan has 7 percent.

Courtesy of Crux. 25/02/2023

"Crux offers the very best in smart, wired, and independent coverage of the Vatican and the Catholic Church".

[<https://cruxnow.com/about>]

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

### Missing the Bullseye

A Lenten Reflection from Bishop Michael Burrows:-

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mRzGKxDsXE>

## Mothers' Union daily practical idea for Lent

Mark each day of Lent with an activity listed on our Lent Calendar.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/resources?nid=9250#views-exposed-form-resources-default>

## Recalling Herbert Howells


Friday past was the 40th anniversary of the death of English composer Herbert Howells.

As an introduction to his music, here are some of his choral compositions, available to listen to for free on YouTube:

<https://bit.ly/3xM0boQ>

## Lambeth Conference stats and resources guide

Did you know, at the 15th Lambeth Conference there were

 82 Countries at the Conference

 151 Bible Study Groups

 552 Bursaries Awarded

 356 Staff and Event Crew

Download the new Resources Guide to out more about the Lambeth Conference in numbers: [bit.ly/3KjA5RP](https://bit.ly/3KjA5RP)

## Poem for today

### The Mournes - by Helen Waddell

I shall not go to heaven when I die.

But if they let me be  
I think I'll take a road I used to know  
That goes by Slieve-na-garagh and the sea.  
And all day breasting me the wind will blow,  
And I'll hear nothing but the peewit's cry  
And the sea talking in the caves below.

I think it will be winter when I die  
(For no one from the North could die in spring)  
And all the heather will be dead and grey,  
And the bog-cotton will have blown away,  
And there will be no yellow on the wind.  
But I shall smell the peat,  
And when it's almost dark I'll set my feet  
Where a white track goes glimmering to the hills,  
And see, far up, a light  
(Would you think Heaven could be so small a thing  
As a lit window on the hills at night?)  
And come in stumbling from the gloom,  
Half-blind, into a firelit room.  
Turn, and see you,  
And there abide.

If it were true,  
And if I thought that they would let me be,  
I almost wish it were tonight I died."

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# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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)

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