

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Rainbow mountain in Peru**

## Image of the day

### Rainbow mountain in Peru

The response to the recent front page image from New Zealand prompted the selection of today's Image of the day. Located in the Peruvian Andes in Cusco Rainbow Mountain is becoming the main attraction to see after or before Machu Picchu. As you could guess, the mountain is famed for its natural, multi-colored beauty at a staggering 5,200m above sea level. This rainbow-like appearance is created by the sediment of minerals throughout the area giving the mountain the turquoise, lavender, gold and other colors.

It was only recently discovered due to the snow melting revealing the hidden gem that's still considered holy by many until this day. Since its discovery, Rainbow Mountain as slowly started gaining popularity and has even been listed in National Geographic's "Top 100 Places To Visit Before You Die".

<https://www.rainbowmountainperu.com/about-rainbow-mountain-peru/>

## People and places

### Appointment to Sligo Centre of Mission

**Hannah O'Neill has been appointed to a new role in the Sligo Centre of Mission**

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Hannah is 31 years old, from East Belfast but for the last 4 years has been living and working in Craigavon as the Youth and Kids Pastor at Hope Church in Down and Dromore Diocese. In September she began training with Church Army and wholeheartedly believes in their vision “for everyone everywhere to encounter God’s love...”

Hannah was previously in Kilmore diocese as the youth and Children’s co-ordinator, whilst also serving in the Killeshandra Group of Parishes, and is very much looking forward to her return to KEA.

“Having grown up visiting Rosnowlagh every summer with family, South Donegal is my favourite place on earth. I am excited and expectant for the move to Bundoran and all God is unfolding through the Sligo Centre of Mission. I’m looking forward to reconnecting with old KEA friends and making new ones, and working together to build God’s Kingdom in the local area.”

Hannah will be working with the Sligo Centre of Mission whilst also supporting ministry in the Manorhamilton Group of Parishes. She is particularly enthusiastic about creating environments for children and young people to encounter the love of God whether that be through prayer spaces, youth groups or schools work. As such, Hannah will be hoping to help facilitate ministry for the younger generations, particularly those who are largely unfamiliar with church.

**Meath & Kildare Dioceses**, in partnership with Church Army, are seeking to appoint two half time or one full time Pioneer Evangelists to work within the existing Kildare Centre of Mission team.



## **Loughgall and Grange Mother's Union support for Baby Basics**

At their recent meeting, enrolling member Eleanor Orr warmly welcomed Judith Pentland from Baby Basics at Mullavilly. Judith spoke about the important work Baby Basics provides to young expectant mothers.

Judith gratefully accepted more items from Branch members for this worthwhile cause.

## **Members of religious orders feel "under-valued"**

In this week's issue of The Irish Catholic, members of religious orders feel "under-valued" as the new 'Year of Vocations' initiative designed to promote vocations will exclude them and will only promote diocesan priesthood. A source has claimed that there is "significant hurt and tension".

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The Association of Missionaries and Religious in Ireland is to make representation to the bishops' conference to express disappointment.

[www.irishcatholic.com](http://www.irishcatholic.com)

**Share your  
Mothers' Union  
banners!**



**Mothers' UNION**

## **Photos of Mothers' Union banners wanted at Mary Sumner House**

Mary Sumner House, the headquarters of the Mothers' Union posted a message on social media this week saying - "We would love to see your local Mothers' Union banners!

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Please email images with some information about the banner to [communications@mothersunion.org](mailto:communications@mothersunion.org)

“We will share them on all our social media channels!”

## **Historic church to host Cork's latest music and arts venue**

Their first live event sold out within hours, which points to the appetite for a live music venue in the seaside town, Liz Dunphy writes in the Irish Examiner.

A new contemporary music and arts venue will launch in a historic church in Cork seaside town Monkstown in February with concerts by renowned singer-songwriters.

Live at St John's is a new collaboration with St John's Church in Monkstown and local residents Pat Kiernan — founder of ground-breaking Cork-based theatre company Corcadora which launched the careers of Cillian Murphy and Enda Walsh but closed after 31 years last October — and Graham White, founder of music collective FreezerRoom who collaborates with national and international musicians.

Together, they aim to programme pop-up music and arts events in the landmark location.

Their first live event sold out within hours, which points to the appetite for a live music venue in the seaside town, Mr White said.

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Award-winning singer-songwriters Jack O'Rourke and All the Queen's Horses will perform the sold-out show on February 18, but more events are being planned for the space this year.

Details will be announced on their website but major names from the Irish and international folk and singer-songwriter genres can be expected for upcoming shows.

### **'A great idea'**

Mr Kiernan, who has been living in Monkstown for six years, was supportive of Mr White's idea of a Monkstown music and arts venue.

“I had experience with putting events on in venues that were not ready or equipped for performance, I thought I could bring that area of expertise to the project,” Mr Kiernan said.

“I thought it was a great idea to programme events. And it’s fantastic that the church has been so open and receptive to the idea, it really is a collaboration between us to make things happen.”

Although Mr Kiernan is well known for expansive, site-specific theatre, the relatively small performance space in the church will dictate the types of events held there, which are likely to be acoustic gigs and perhaps stand-up comedy and other smaller-scale arts events, he said.

“By their nature churches were built in order for people to communicate in them. So they naturally lend themselves to performance,” Mr Kiernan said.

## Church performances

The beauty of the Gothic Revival church, first built in 1832, inspired Mr White to approach it for use as a music venue after he accompanied Jack O'Rourke to perform in a church in Tipperary last year and was struck by its quality and resonance as a music venue.

Churches can be brought back into the centre of communities again by providing spaces for arts, culture and connection, Mr White said.

"There are churches in almost every town in Ireland, many of them are only used a few times a week so this is something more towns could do," Mr White said.

"It's great to bring artists to perform outside of the cities and to bring more people into these places again.

St John's is a small Gothic Revival church which is part of the Church of Ireland's Carrigaline Union of Parishes in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross.

The Church is still in regular use, with services every Sunday at 9:30am. The Monkstown Chamber Choir, a robed choir, sing Choral Evensong at 7pm on the Second Sunday of each month, excluding Summer months.

Ticket availability for new shows will be announced at [www.liveatstjohns.com](http://www.liveatstjohns.com).

Courtesy Irish Examiner 31/01/2023

## News reports



### Archbishop of Canterbury writes ahead of historic visit to Sudan

Archbishop of Canterbury writes - Dear friends,

I am profoundly grateful to be visiting the people of South Sudan with my dear brothers in Christ, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshield, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of

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Scotland. We have prayed for many years for this visit – and we now look forward to being in Juba together today.

Our visit is a Pilgrimage of Peace. We come as servants – to listen to and amplify the cries of the South Sudanese people, who have suffered so much and continue to suffer because of conflict, devastating flooding, widespread famine and much more. Over the past three years and even since July, violence has intensified in many parts of the country. We hope to review and renew the commitments made by

## A Prayer for South Sudan

Grant political leaders in South Sudan, the spirit of compromise, commitment, wisdom, trust and understanding, to lead your people in the ways of peace, healing, justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Almighty God, may the Ecumenical Pilgrimage of the Eminent Global Church Leaders increase in us the virtue of love, hope, faith, peace, healing, forgiveness and reconciliation, and unity.

We pray this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

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South Sudanese leadership at the Vatican in 2019, and the commitments they have made to their people since then.

We come as brothers in Christ to worship together and witness to the God who reconciles us. The communities of South Sudan have a legacy of powerful witness to their faith. Through working together, they have been a sign and instrument of the reconciliation God desires for their whole country and all of creation. We hope to build on and reenergise that legacy.

This will be a historic visit. After centuries of division, leaders of three different parts of the Church are coming together in an unprecedented way, and in so doing are seeking to be part of answering another prayer – Jesus’ prayer – that his followers might be one – "ut unum sint" (John: 17). We come as followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, knowing that his Holy Spirit is at work in South Sudan and has the power to transform hearts. His love and welcome are on offer to all. It is through him that we find our deepest peace and our most profound hopes for justice. And so I ask you to pray with us for the people of South Sudan.

## **Assembly in Prague an ‘important step in the ongoing Synodal process’ – Archbishop Martin**

**Archbishop Eamon Martin along with 13 other delegates will attend the first ever European Assembly of a Synod within the Catholic Church.**

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There are seven continental assemblies taking place across five continents in a new stage of the synodal process and the European Assembly is taking place in Prague in the Czech Republic from 5 to 12 February 2023.

Archbishop Martin said, “This Assembly in Prague will be a further important step in the ongoing Synodal process of strengthening the Church through prayer and dialogue, and by sharing experiences, questions and hopes for the future. Those of us who will be taking part in the European assembly are conscious of our responsibility to bring the fruits of what has been shared in many gatherings across Ireland in the past fifteen months or so. We are still only at the initial stages of our Synodal journey but already important themes are emerging about the need for healing and renewal in the Church and the challenge of finding fresh ways of offering the hope that comes from our friendship with Christ and with the joy of the Gospel.”

In October 2021, Pope Francis launched a Synod on the theme of synodality, which was a global process with the whole People of God. The first stage of this process was a worldwide listening in each Catholic Diocese (known as the Diocesan Stage). Between October 2021 and May 2022, faith-based conversations and consultations took place across the island of Ireland and, by the 29 May, dioceses and other groups submitted their responses to the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference. Each submission was reviewed in a spirit of prayer and discernment over the weekend of Pentecost (June 2022) by members of a National Steering Committee, and the emerging themes were presented to representatives at an assembly in Athlone on 18 June. A National Synthesis from the Catholic

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Church in Ireland was then prepared and sent to the Synod office in Rome.

At the end of October last year, the Secretariat of the Synod, published its Working Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod, which was a further synthesis of the 112 National Syntheses from the Catholic Church around the world, along with submissions from other religious congregations and groups. Entitled Enlarge the Space of Your Tent, this Working Document has been the subject of discernment and reflection back in each diocese around the world. Delegates from each Catholic Bishops' Conference will now take part in a Continental Assembly in order to continue the synodal process of reciprocal listening and consultation.



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The four delegates travelling from Ireland to attend the Continental Assembly in Prague are:

Dr Nicola Brady, Chairperson of the Steering Committee  
Father Éamonn Fitzgibbon, Convener of the Task Group for the Irish Synodal Pathway

Archbishop Eamon Martin, President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Ms Julieann Moran, General Secretary of the Irish Synodal Pathway

A further ten delegates will attend the Assembly online. They are:

Dr Gary Carville, Executive Secretary for the Council for Justice and Peace and the Council for Ecumenism', Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Ms Ciara Ferry, Senior Supervisor and Communications Leader of Net Ministries Ireland

Mrs Janet Forbes, ADYC Co-ordinator Archdiocese of Armagh and Member of the Synodal Pathway Task Group in Ireland

Ms Ursula Halligan, Joint Co-ordinator of We Are Church Ireland

Fr Declan Hurley, Administrator of St Mary's Parish, Navan and Co-Chair of the National Steering Committee

Sr Kathleen McGarvey, OLA, Provincial Leader of the OLA Sisters in Ireland

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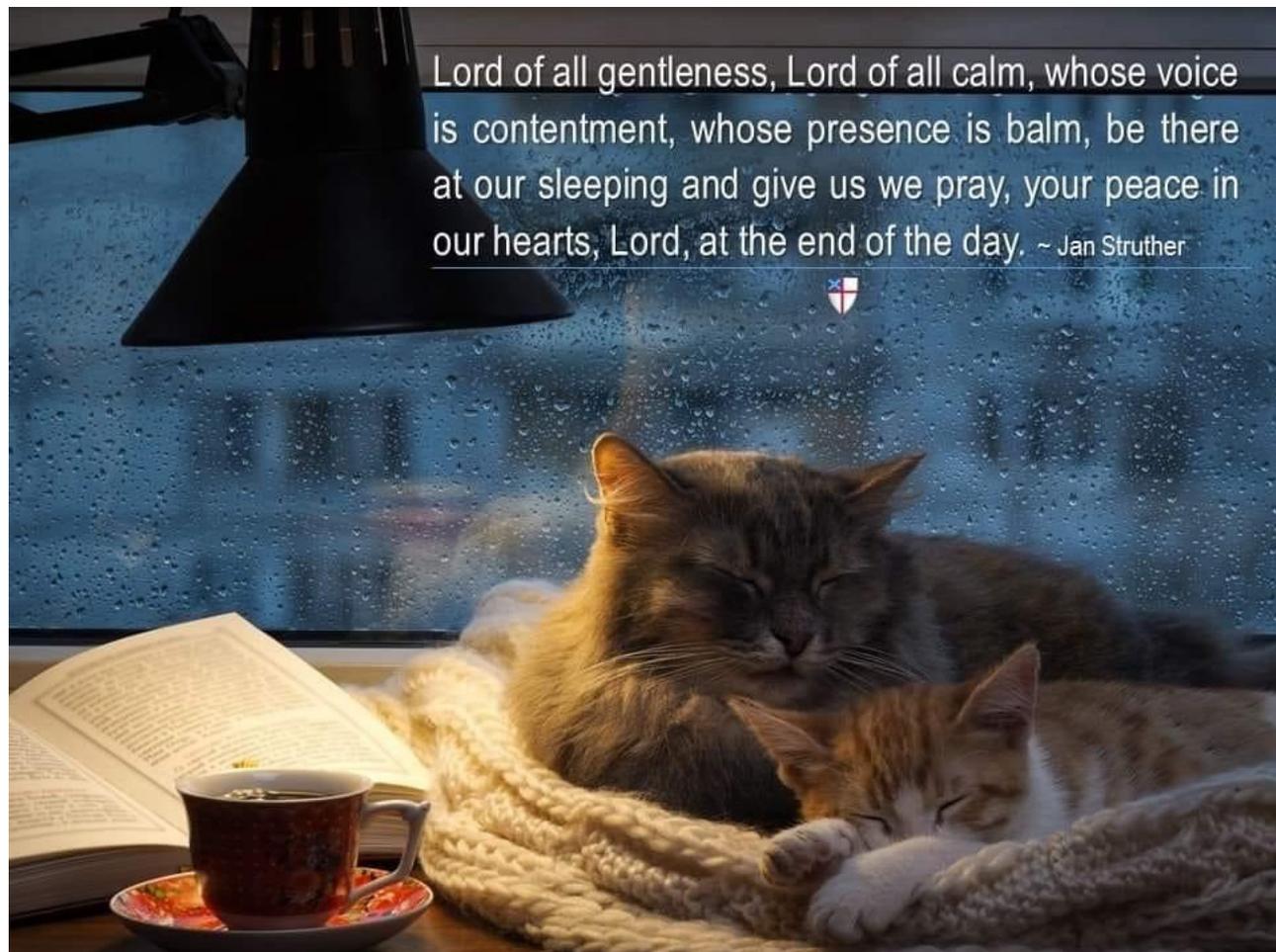
Deacon Frank McGuinness, Diocese of Elphin  
Mrs Paula McKeown, Director of Living Church (Down and Connor) and Deputy Chair of the National Steering Committee

Miss Helena O'Shea, Director of Youth 2000 Ireland

Mr Stephen Sherry, Seminarian for Clogher Diocese

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

### Book on Pope Benedict XVI launched in Ennis Cathedral



Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, be there at our sleeping and give us we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day. ~ Jan Struther

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Bishop Fintan Monahan's latest book on the life and ministry of the recently deceased Pope Benedict XVI was launched in Ennis Cathedral. The Bishop of Killaloe's book is published by Veritas, Ireland. It is also available for sale at €10 from the Ennis Parish Office.

## Download free posters about the Bible

Over 20 posters to choose from!

From Christian symbols to Bible heroines and Gospel tours. Perfect for schools, groups and parishes.

Free to download today!

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/posters-for-schools/>

## Choral Stream's Top Videos of 2022

Listen as a Dickens ensemble from **The Skyline Sisters**, an award-winning Dutch ladies barbershop chorus, presents this beautiful performance of the classic 19th-century American hymn '**It Is Well With My Soul**' during last year's winter concerts. Enjoy!

We're counting down the Choral Stream's top videos of 2022, based on number of views. A new video will be posted each hour!

<https://www.facebook.com/page/403710026316176/search/?q=It%20Is%20Well%20With%20My%20Soul%27>

<https://www.facebook.com/choralstream/>

## Perspective

### Defining and finding reconciliation - Tony Davidson

Last October, when speaking in the Seanad in Dublin, Norman Hamilton bemoaned how none of the governments in Dublin, London, Belfast, or Washington, had a clear policy setting out what reconciliation is, or the steps needed to make it happen. Norman concluded, “That in practice means that every time a political leader speaks of reconciliation there's no clarity at all as to what he or she is actually describing or advocating”. “Reconciliation” is a word that political sources have pilfered from the vocabulary of scripture. However, without definition, it can easily degenerate into a term synonymous with peaceful apartheid or superficial agreement. As we approach the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement the need for some definition of reconciliation becomes more urgent.

My thoughts have returned to a conference in Corrymeela in the 1990s. The keynote speaker was John Paul Lederach, the American Mennonite theologian and peace practitioner. He used Psalm 85v10-11 “Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.” The old metrical Psalm translated those verses as “Mercy now and justice meet peace and truth for aye embrace”.

Lederach conducted a role-play involving four people, who represented Brother or Sister “mercy”, “justice”, “peace”, and “truth”. He probed sisters “justice” and “peace” about

what they thought of brother “mercy” or sister “truth”. It soon became apparent that these virtues were not natural soulmates. Then, as the four virtues held hands and formed a circle, Lederach pointed to the empty space in the middle, and suggested that the space is called “reconciliation”. Lederach went on to demonstrate how globally some peace processes started with peace, initially neglecting truth and justice, but how all four virtues were required to sustain an intergenerational peace process that involved reconciliation. Fleming Rutledge - in her masterful book on the Crucifixion points out how, “Peace without justice is an illusionary peace that sets the stage for vengeful behaviour later on.”

Lederach’s role-play returned to my mind as I read two books recently. The first was Justin Welby’s latest book, “The Power of Reconciliation.” Welby is not just a writer on reconciliation, but a practitioner, who has worked for decades mediating in Nigeria and in the global Anglican Church. Like Norman, he wonders about how the word, “Reconciliation” is used in a secular context, being regarded as an event and then everyone moves on. Instead, Welby stresses how in his experience reconciliation is complex and complicated.

Secondly, Tim Keller in his latest book, “Forgive, why should I, and How can I,” also reflects on the complexity of forgiveness or the desire to show mercy. He draws out the tension between justice and mercy. “God is both a God of wrath and love - and both are fulfilled on the cross. How wonderful that justice and love are perfectly integrated in the being of God, yet in our society and in our hearts, the two seems to be locked in a deadly conflict.” Keller quotes from Shakespeare’s play, “Merchant of Venice”, “Though justice

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be thy plea, consider this: that in the course of justice none of us should see salvation. We do pray for mercy, and the same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy.”

As we approach the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday agreement, it should not surprise us that reconciliation is difficult to define and even more difficult to achieve.

Reconciliation involves not only resolving external tensions between combatants, but also internal tensions between virtues. Our peace process on this island has certainly been long, arduous, and complex. However, may I suggest that Lederach’s space between the virtues might be a workable definition in the Christian world, because it is biblical, and in the secular world, where it is understandable, realistic, and perhaps eventually achievable.

Of course, as Christians we would argue that there is only one person, Jesus Christ who was completely truthful, just, compassionate, and peaceful. He was truthful in all his relationships. He was just, treating all equally and fairly. He was compassionate showing mercy to sinners, and he was a man of peace, reaching out to people from different backgrounds, whether they be female Samaritans, or butch Roman soldiers. Jesus is the true reconciler.

Tony Davidson recently retired as Minister in First Presbyterian Church, Armagh.

## Poem for today

## Invictus by William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,  
    Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
    For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
    I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
    My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
    Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
    Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
    How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
    I am the captain of my soul.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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