



Image of the day

Whoopers on the Foyle

February, 7, 2022

People and places

Archbishop praises Queen's Christian faith on her historic Platinum Jubilee

**The Archbishop
of Canterbury
has paid tribute
to the Queen's
70 years on the
throne as a "symbol of stability and hope".**



Sunday marked Accession Day and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - the first for a British monarch.

The Queen, 95, acceded the throne after the death of her father, King George VI, on 6 February 1952.

She was radiant as she kicked off a year of celebrations to mark the milestone anniversary with a reception and cake-cutting at Sandringham.

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She said she looked forward "to continuing to serve you with all my heart", and spoke of her hope that the Jubilee would "bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities after some difficult times for so many of us".



"As I look ahead with a sense of hope and optimism to the year of my Platinum Jubilee, I am reminded of how much we can be thankful for," the Queen said.

"These last seven decades have seen extraordinary progress socially, technologically and culturally that have benefitted us all; and I am confident that the future will offer similar opportunities to us and especially to the younger generations in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth."

In a statement, she added that it was her "sincere wish" that the Duchess of Cornwall become Queen Consort when Prince Charles becomes king, and thanked people "of all nationalities, faiths and ages" for their "goodwill" through the years.



SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

5th February, 2022.

Tomorrow, 6th February, marks the 70th anniversary of my Accession in 1952. It is a day that, even after 70 years, I still remember as much for the death of my father, King George VI, as for the start of my reign.

As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.

As I look ahead with a sense of hope and optimism to the year of my Platinum Jubilee, I am reminded of how much we can be thankful for. These last seven decades have seen extraordinary progress socially, technologically and culturally that have benefitted us all; and I am confident that the future will offer similar opportunities to us and especially to the younger generations in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

I am fortunate to have had the steadfast and loving support of my family. I was blessed that in Prince Philip I had a partner willing to carry out the role of consort and unselfishly make the sacrifices that go with it. It is a role I saw my own mother perform during my father's reign.

This anniversary also affords me a time to reflect on the goodwill shown to me by people of all nationalities, faiths and ages in this country and around the world over these years. I would like to express my thanks to you all for your support. I remain eternally grateful for, and humbled by, the loyalty and affection that you continue to give me. And when, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me; and it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort as she continues her own loyal service.

And so as I look forward to continuing to serve you with all my heart, I hope this Jubilee will bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities – after some difficult times for so many of us – in order to enjoy the celebrations and to reflect on the positive developments in our day-to-day lives that have so happily coincided with my reign.

Tom Servant

Elizabeth R

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Archbishop Justin Welby invited Christians to pray that God would "continue to strengthen and guide" the Queen, and "bless her with continued health and wisdom".

“Her Majesty The Queen's seventy years of service as monarch have been a symbol of stability and hope throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the world," he said.

"As we mark the anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne, we give thanks for her dedication to us all, and her faithful witness to Jesus Christ.”



Busy Belfast weekend for Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby joined Protestant and Catholic clergy and church members for a cross-community walk in Belfast on Saturday.

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Also taking part in the 4 Corners Festival event were Reverend David Campton, parish priest Father Martin Magill, Jim Deeds of the Living Church and DUP deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast ,Tom Haire. The walk began at Fernhill House on the Glencairn Road in north Belfast and made its way to the Farset International Hotel in west Belfast via the Forth Meadow Community Greenway project.

Archbishop Welby also called into The DOCK Cafe. He was greeted by the team as well as Bishops David McClay and



Belfast Community Gospel Choir

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Harold Millar plus Ross Munro from The Gathering church plant. The Archbishop first visited the DOCK in October 2014 and was game to make a brew then too.

Belfast Community Gospel Choir posted “It was lovely to be part of BBC Radio Ulster’s Sunday Service this morning with 4 Corners Festival, and to meet Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.”

If you missed the service, you can catch up here >>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m00146m7>

Derry rector to be Queen’s representative



The Rector of St Augustine's Church, in Londonderry, Rev Nigel Cairns, has been appointed Her Majesty’s Deputy Lieutenant of the County Borough.

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The appointment was made by Dr Angela Garvey, the Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Londonderry.

Deputy Lieutenants are expected to carry out public duties on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant. Nigel is pictured, with his wife Alison, at 'the Wee Church on the Walls', where he has been the Rector for the past two years.

The Diocese has congratulated Rev Cairns on his appointment and wished him every success in fulfilling these additional new duties.

Youth focus for bishop's rearranged enthronement

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, has announced that his Installation Service in Lisburn Cathedral will be held on Sunday February 20, while his rescheduled Installation in Belfast Cathedral will be on Sunday March 13.

Due to the pandemic, these services are taking place two years after the former Archdeacon of Belfast was appointed Bishop of Connor, and 18 months after his consecration in an empty and quiet St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

The service on February 20 in Lisburn Cathedral will begin at 6.30pm. In something of a break with tradition, it will be particularly focused on the young people of the Diocese of Connor.

After the Bishop is admitted to the Cathedral and installed in his seat, he will receive a 'charge' from members of the Connor Youth Forum as they share something of their hopes for his leadership in the diocese.

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In the context of contemporary worship, younger members of the diocese will also read and pray as the Bishop responds to their charge and challenges them to hear God's call to serve alongside him in building the Church in Connor.

Following the service, people will meet informally outside and in the Cathedral Hall to share hotdogs, chat and take a few photo booth pictures.

Any young person in the diocese is invited. Please note that space at the service will be limited and adults are asked only to request a place if they are bringing young people with them.

Those who are not attending are invited to share in the service online by joining on the Lisburn Cathedral's YouTube channel.

The rescheduled Service of Installation for the wider diocese in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, is now planned for 3.30pm on Sunday March 13. All clergy are warmly invited to attend and formal invitations will be issued in due course. This service was originally scheduled for January 9, but was postponed due to a predicted peak in the number of Omicron cases in Northern Ireland.

News Reports

Dean stands down with payoff in Oxford college row

An Oxford college's four-year battle to oust its dean amid claims of scandalous behaviour, unsound

judgment, mental incapacity and sexual harassment has ended after it agreed to give him a substantial payoff.

The Very Rev Prof Martyn Percy, the dean of Christ Church, has agreed to step down following a mediation process which concluded last week and is said to have resolved all outstanding issues between the college and its dean.

‘This means that an employment tribunal scheduled for next year will not go ahead. Instead the college will pay a “substantial” sum in compensation to Prof Percy and reimburse his legal costs, his supporters said.

The college has also agreed to an independent review of its governance.

As part of this settlement, Prof Percy will relinquish his position as dean at the end of April, while a statement from Christ Church, issued yesterday, said “a resolution has been reached that is acceptable to all parties” after mediation “to resolve a number of outstanding issues” between the dean and the college’s governing body.

It added: “The individual who made the allegation of sexual harassment against the dean has agreed to settle her claim in terms which, on her request, are confidential.”

It was alleged that Prof Percy briefly stroked and commented on the hair of an unidentified woman, an allegation that he denied.

Thames Valley Police also conducted an investigation, after the matter was reported to them. A spokesperson at the time said that officers “conducted a thorough investigation into this matter” and that the “investigation has now concluded

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and the matter has been filed pending further information coming to light”.

The person, referred to by the college as X, said she brought a claim of sexual harassment against the dean in October 2020, which he has always denied.

She said in a statement released by the college: “He has also denied that he victimised me, including after I brought employment tribunal proceedings against him.

“I have to accept, incredibly reluctantly, that it is my word against his that the incident took place.

“I am acutely aware that this is a situation faced by many women who bring complaints of a sexual nature.

“Sadly, the various processes that have followed have not altered this situation.

“However, I want to acknowledge that Christ Church, to their credit, has always supported my right to make this complaint.”

The college said it made clear throughout the various dispute processes with the dean that no resolution could be reached unless the concerns of the individual making the allegation of sexual harassment against him were fully addressed.

At the individual’s request, Christ Church said it would within 12 months commission a comprehensive review of its policies and procedures in relation to sexual harassment to be led by an independent expert. Prof Percy thanked his family, friends and legal advisers and wished the college well for the future, calling it a “special place”.

In its statement, Christ Church said it had “always regarded the safety and well-being of its students and staff as its highest priority”, adding it was “deeply sorry for the hurt that this individual has suffered”. It continued: “We regret the time that it has taken to bring these matters concerning the dean to a conclusion.”

Women remain undervalued in the church in Australia

Women remain undervalued in the church despite 2022 marking 30 years since their ordination as Anglican priests in Australia, according to one of Melbourne’s first women to be ordained.

Melbourne Assistant Bishop Kate Prowd said there was still a long way to go for women to be fully valued in the church as well as wider society, reflecting on her own priesting in 1992.

The ordination of 33 women to the priesthood in Melbourne came after the 1992 General Synod voted to allow Australian dioceses to make their own decision on the issue. The synod only narrowly reached the required two-thirds majority to pass the bill.

Bishop Prowd said there was a great sense of historical significance at the ordination ceremony in 1992, with three groups of women ordained over three services in December because so many had been waiting.

The Reverend Elizabeth Alfred, who had been a deaconess since 1944 and deacon since 1986, was the first of 33 women priested in Melbourne, then aged 78.

Then in her early 30s, Bishop Prowd was among the youngest.

She said there was a sense that women had “arrived”. But at the same time a leader of the Movement for the Ordination of Women Dr Janet Scarfe warned the new priests not to rest on their laurels.

“There’s still a long journey to go and we must always be on the journey,” Dr Scarfe told them.

Bishop Prowd said this situation was not unique to the priesthood, or the ordination of women.

“When we look at our society and what we’ve been observing about women in politics, economically, socially re sexual abuse – and we know the Church is not immune from this – it’s really important for women in leadership to keep those conversations on the table,” Bishop Prowd said.

“All the wonderful work that’s been done in the diocese in [the] Prevention of Violence Against Women [program] is not finished ... it’s never a full stop.

“We’ve got to call out misogynistic behaviours and attitudes, and discrimination. Women aren’t the only ones to do that but women as leaders encourages other women to find their voice.”

Women were first ordained to the priesthood in Melbourne in December 1992, after General Synod voted narrowly to allow individual dioceses to decide on the ordination of women.

The final vote came after six hours debate, with just two votes giving it the required two-thirds majority in the House of Clergy.

Latin confirmation is outlawed in Vatican modernisation drive

Catholic churches in England have begun scrapping Latin confirmation services amid the Pope's drive to modernise the Church.

Following a diktat from Rome, English bishops are now cancelling scores of old rite confirmations in favour of the simpler reformed liturgies.

The new guidelines, published last month, ban ordinations and confirmations in the unreformed liturgy and severely restrict other sacraments.

These guidelines will prevent a priest from offering sacraments in the old rite without permission.

As a result, churches in England are cancelling their Latin confirmation services. Joseph Shaw, chairman of the Latin Mass Society, said: "They're not stopping it because it's not popular, they're stopping it because it is popular and that worries them – because it's not what they're used to.

They've spent their lives using the reformed liturgy, and essentially have devoted their lives to pushing a mistake. That's a painful thing to admit. Young people like traditional Mass, it has perennial value and a more classic style."

The Latin Mass is a Roman Catholic service celebrated in Ecclesiastical Latin. While the liturgy is in Latin, sermons are given in the local vernacular.

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Preparations for around 20 confirmations in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite were scheduled to take place at the Birmingham Oratory this month and more than 40 were expected to be conferred at St James's Church, Spanish Place, London, in June.

However, all of them have been cancelled after the *Responsa ad dubia*, published in December by the Congregation for Divine Worship, which suggested old rite liturgies were impermissible.

The crackdown by the Vatican was intended to halt possible divisions within the Church following the growing popularity of the old rite – particularly among young people and families, with one senior official claiming devotion to the Latin Mass had become a movement which was “out of control”.

However, priests who continue to offer Mass in both the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms said the move had alienated many of the faithful, leaving them “bewildered and flummoxed” and failing to grasp why they were being punished.

The Pope has issued warnings about the tendency of neo-traditionalism among younger clergy, telling fellow Jesuits in Africa in 2019: “Have you never seen young priests all stiff in black cassocks and hats in the shape of the planet Saturn on their heads? Behind all the rigid clericalism there are serious problems.”

A spokesman for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: “Pope Francis is presiding over a reform in the broadest sense. This reform is examining every area of administration and practice.”

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Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Invite to launch of Nourishing Mission by Graham Kings

You are warmly invited to join the launch and discussion of the book “Nourishing Mission: Theological Settings” by Graham Kings, published by Brill, 2022

Wednesday 16 February 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (GMT). On Zoom and in person at Westminster College, Cambridge.

Chair: Dr Jenny Leith, Dean of Studies, Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide

Speakers

Rt Revd Prof Joseph Galgalo, Assistant Bishop All Saints Cathedral Diocese, Kenya and former Vice Chancellor of St Paul's University, Limuru, for ten years

Prof Kirsteen Kim, Professor of World Christianity, Fuller Theological Seminary, USA, and an Editor of the Brill series, 'Theology and Mission in World Christianity'

Prof David Ford, Emeritus Regius Professor of Divinity, University of Cambridge

Revd Dr Muthuraj Swamy, Director, Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide

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Nourishing Mission contains theological treasures that show the intriguing coherence of an unfolding vision. Earthed in the ministry of a priest, missionary, academic theologian, and well-travelled bishop, the five settings – Kenya, Cambridge, Islington, Sherborne and Lambeth – mingle art, poetry and archives with theology, history and spirituality. Memorable scenes include a Kenyan liturgy on the environment and Bishop Gitari's preaching, the drama of worship on the streets of London, a Deuteronomic prequel to the Prodigal Son, flashes from the lives of Henry Martyn and Stephen Harding, the birth of South Sudan and the historic dialogue of John Stott and Basil Meeking.

Rt Revd Dr Graham Kings, Assistant Bishop, and Research Associate at the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, founded the Centre in 1996.

For registration and a Zoom link, please get in touch with us: centre@cccw.cam.ac.uk

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Perspective

The Presentation in the Temple by Houston McKelvey

Recently I saw a super photograph of The interior of Ripon Cathedral lit up by seven thousand candles.

It was celebrating with the church worldwide one of the most interesting incidents in the life of Jesus. It is referred to as

“The Presentation in the Temple”. Mary and Joseph were testifying to their Jewish faith. They had come to the Temple to present their child before God. (Luke 2:22-40).

As they made their way from the crowded city streets and through the vendors stalls around the Temple area, they encountered a man who stepped in to their way. A stranger, yes, but there must have been something about him—an air of trustworthiness and devotion—because Mary places her precious child into his arms while Joseph stands there, quizzically holding the turtledoves he had brought for the sacrifice.

The old man was Simeon. He is rapturous at first, praising God, saying something to himself about light and promises and the Gentiles. It is what Anglicans like myself now call the Nunc Dimittis - the Latin intro to “Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace because mine eyes have seen thy salvation, to be a light to lighten the Gentiles...”

This biblical passage is sung at Evensong daily. Nothing lifts my heart and faith like it being sung well and especially when to one of my favourite chants - musical settings.

I have also pastoral memories of saying the Nunc Dimittis with people who were quite ill in hospital or at home and whom one knew pastorally were on the border of this life and the life to come. On a few occasions I finished the short biblical passage in this world as my parishioner who had been saying it with me passed in to the innermost presence of God. Those are indeed holy experiences. They are truly awesome.

Simeon was prepared to die. He had waited upon a sign that God was going to redeem the people of Israel, and he

had not only seen the sign, he had held it in his arms and blessed it.

But this is not the end of the encounter.

For then, the aged Simeon looks at the hopeful face of Jesus' mother and utters the words she must hear, the words that she never wanted to hear.

Simeon says, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed— and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

This is the truth that Mary must carry with her. And she did, right to the cross of sacrifice at Golgotha.

That is the importance of marking the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. We in the church leave behind us Christmas with the shepherds at the manger and the visit of the Wise Men at Epiphany when Jesus is shown to foreign Gentiles.

We then starting our annual pilgrimage to Calvary. There we will stand alongside Mary in her grief and her hope. We will have our faith renewed through the Holy Spirit by the work of Christ on the Cross and in the grave.

And so, thank God that when our own death comes, like Simeon we can say "Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace because mine eyes have seen the light of thy salvation..."

In Belfast Cathedral on the pillar beside the pulpit is the sculptured image of one of the truly great Irish bishops, Jeremy Taylor. His best known writings were admired by people like John Wesley the father of Methodism. They are

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entitled “Holy Living” and “Holy Dying”. That is the annual and daily challenge which is ours thanks to Simeon and the presentation of Christ in the Temple by Mary and Joseph.

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Poem of the day

Hedauville, November 1915

By Vera Brittain

The sunshine on the long white road
That ribboned down the hill,
The velvet clematis that clung
Around your window-sill
Are waiting for you still.
Again the shadowed pool shall break
In dimples at your feet,
And when the thrush sings in your wood,
Unknowing you may meet
Another stranger, sweet.
And if he is not quite so old
As the boy you used to know,
And less proud, too, and worthier,
You may not let him go –

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(And daisies are truer than passion-flowers)

It will be better so.

