

Church News Ireland



Image of the day - St Malachy's Coleraine

People and places



Foundation stone laid at extension of Dundalk Seminary

Yesterday Archbishop Eamon Martin presided over the ceremony of laying the foundation stone for the extension works of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in De La Salle Terrace, Dundalk, Co Louth in the Archdiocese of Armagh.

The seminary was established in 2012 for the purpose of forming priests who are specifically trained for the challenges of the New Evangelization.

The present seminary had been renovated and officially opened in November 2016, however, with the sustained

growth of vocations, there is an urgent need to extend the existing building. The laying of the foundation stone marked the opening of the new construction site. In line with the growth of vocations in the seminary in recent years, the new 1,400 square metre extension will provide additional bedrooms, increased dining and living areas as well as a beautiful new oratory on the north side of the site. It is expected that the project works will be completed by the end of 2023.

At the ceremony Archbishop Eamon said, “Ireland has had a tremendous missionary outreach down through the centuries, so one of the ingredients of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary, that is so important for me, is this missionary dimension. It is really a seminary for the New Evangelisation. I am hopeful that our young men who are being formed here in Dundalk will be able to bring that missionary spirit into their priesthood within the Archdiocese and beyond. We have been very blessed that so many people have supported this seminary by their prayers and by their contributions over the years. By laying this foundation stone today, we are placing the continuation of this work in God’s hands. We pray that He may bless all those working on this project and that this seminary may bear much fruit for the formation of future priests and for the spreading of the Gospel.”

So far three priests and a deacon have been ordained from the seminary and they are now serving in parishes of the Archdiocese. At this time eighteen young men from six countries (Croatia, Italy, Malta, Poland, Scotland, Spain and USA), whose vocations are nurtured by the Neocatechumenal Way, are being formed to become priests

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for the future. These seminarians, once ordained priests of the Archdiocese of Armagh, will also be available to offer their lives for the mission, in Ireland or abroad.

The marble foundation stone laid by Archbishop Eamon was blessed by Pope Francis in August 2018 during his visit to Ireland to attend the IX World Meeting of Families. The stone is engraved with a symbol of Jesus Christ. The ceremonial laying of this foundation stone is a sign of the project being entrusted to God as well as being a symbol of Christ himself, who is the cornerstone of our faith and the rock of our salvation.

Dublin Black Santa's presentations to fifteen local charities

Fifteen local charities got a welcome financial boost at the 'Black Santa Service' in St Ann's, Dawson Street, on Sunday past February 13.

A record total of €45,000 was donated to the annual Black Santa Appeal outside St Ann's just before Christmas. Every cent was given directly to the charities.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the charities to the volunteers who organise the sit out and those who donated, Bryan Dobson (representing the Brabazon Trust) said that the donation was a boost for them in financial terms but it also brought the message that the work done by the charities mattered. He added that the range of charities supported by Black Santa told of the many needs of the individuals,



Representatives of the charities who benefited from the 2021 Black Santa Sit Out with clergy and staff of St Ann's and the Dean of Belfast.

families and households of Dublin. "The struggle of the people for whom these charities meet their needs has never been greater," he commented.

The preacher at the service was the Very Revd Stephen Forde, Dean of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, where the tradition of the Black Santa Appeal began 45 years ago. Since then, millions of pounds have been raised for charities in Northern Ireland.

The Dublin Black Santa Sit Out began at St Ann's Church 21 years ago and has raised over three quarters of a million euro in that time.

“Why do we do this? Why in the coldest weeks of December does the Dean of Belfast and the Vicar of St Ann’s, each with their helpers, wrap up in thermal socks and a thick black cloak to raise funds for the ordinary people of each of our cities in the days before Christmas?” the Dean asked.

“I believe the answer to that question is to be found in both of the Scripture readings this morning [Jeremiah 17: 5–10 and Luke 6: 17–26]. Because here is an even more fundamental question: How do people of faith live by faith? Is it by words and expressions of belief or must those words be translated into actions? What is it that defines a society, whether in Belfast or in Dublin? Is it with manifestos and aspirations or is it by the decisions that we make, the programmes that we follow and the changes that we embrace?” he continued.

For Jeremiah,

Dean Forde said, it is what we do and how we act which defines the level of our faith. Discipleship is not measured by the length of our prayers or the promises that we make, it is measured by the actions we make that will change our world, he said. “As individuals or as societies emerging from the pandemic,

are we seen to be a people who serve ourselves or who serve others? Or to use some more religious words, are we defined by greed or by grace?” he asked.

The Dean presented the parish with a pair of handknitted Black Santa socks, which were knitted for him before the 2021 sit out. He said when the new Vicar of St Ann’s, Dawson Street, was being instituted, the socks could be included among the symbols which he or she will receive as

signs of their new ministry there. “May that be a continuing ministry of grace and extravagant generosity to the charities and to the people of this city, a discipleship of doing in the ongoing times of need,” he said.

The charities that benefited from the appeal this year were: The Solas Project, Protestant Aid, Alice Leahy Trust, the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Peter McVerry Trust, Focus Ireland, the Samaritans, the Laura Lynn Foundation, PACT, the Brabazon Trust, St John’s House, the Salvation Army, Barnardos and the Mendicity Institution.

Presiding Bishop Curry recalls Archbishop Desmond Tutu

A celebration of the life of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who died the day after Christmas was held on Sunday past at St John’s Cathedral, New York at which the address was given by the Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry who recalled,

”I saw Bishop Tutu preach in Columbus OH in the '80s. I don't recall everything, but I remember how he closed. He said, 'I believe one day my beloved South Africa will be free. One day my beloved South Africa will be the land of all the rainbow children of God. I believe it, although I haven't seen it. But I believe God has a dream for South Africa, and nothing can stop God's dream. I believe *that* because he raised Jesus from the dead. If God can do that, look out apartheid. You've already lost.'”

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Bishop Pat Storey joins trustees of Clergy Support Trust



The first woman to serve as a bishop in the Church

of Ireland, the Most Revd Pat Storey, has joined the Board of Trustees at Clergy Support Trust.

Elected by the charity's Governors alongside the Bishop of Meath and Kildare were two other new trustees: Dr Mayowa Jolaoso, a GP based in Northamptonshire, and the Revd Ruth Newton, a priest serving in a rural benefice in the Diocese of Leeds.

Their appointments were announced at the 343rd Annual General Meeting of the Trust, held at Lambeth Palace. They follow a comprehensive audit of existing trustees' skills, expertise and experience, and an open search process which saw an excellent and diverse group of applicants from across the UK and Ireland.

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The Revd Canon Simon Butler, Chair of Trustees, welcomed the appointments: “I’m delighted that these three outstanding individuals have joined the Trust’s Court of Assistants. They bring great understanding of the challenges facing clergy. Pat has unique experience of being the first and only woman bishop in the Church of Ireland, and the first on the Court of Assistants of Clergy Support Trust, while Mayo and Ruth also have fantastic experience from the Dioceses of Leicester and Leeds, and the varied and crucial roles they have held.

“The work of the Trust providing confidential and impartial support to clergy and their families has never been more needed, and we are looking forward to benefitting from our new colleagues’ great wealth of ministry and professional experience.

“It is an exciting time to join the charity: we are helping more people than ever before and continuing to expand our range of preventative and support services, including in areas like counselling, insomnia help and debt support.”

The 343rd Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday, 18th November 2020. Mayo, Pat, and Ruth join twelve continuing members of the Board. Information on all Trustees, and on the charity’s governance and strategy, can be found at www.clergysupport.org.uk

About the new trustees:

Dr Mayowa Jolaoso (Northamptonshire)

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Mayo is a General Practitioner. Educated at the Universities of Lagos and London, she has worked in healthcare in Nigeria and the UK, and is a Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners. A practising Anglican since childhood, Mayo has held a number of charitable and church-related positions, including as a member of the wellbeing and return working group for the Diocese of Leicester. For the past year, she has served as an expert adviser to Clergy Support Trust's Grants and Partnerships Committee, and is therefore well-known to the staff and Court already for her many excellent contributions to the Trust's work.

The Revd Ruth Newton (North Yorkshire)

Ruth is a priest serving in the Diocese of Leeds, where she combines parish ministry with her post as Tutor at St Hild College. A graduate of Central Lancashire and Huddersfield Universities, Ruth was ordained in 2002 following study at St John's College, Nottingham. She has since served in the Dioceses of Carlisle, York and Leeds; her particular expertise in rural ministry has been acknowledged and strengthened by roles as Trustee of the Arthur Rank Centre and member of General Synod's Rural Affairs Group. Previously both an Area Dean and a Residentiary Canon of Ripon, Ruth is an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

The Most Revd Pat Storey (County Kildare)

On her appointment as Bishop of Meath and Kildare in 2013, Pat became the first female bishop in the UK and Ireland; she remains the only female member of the Church

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of Ireland's House of Bishops. Educated at Trinity College Dublin and ordained in 1997, Pat served as a parish priest in Glenavy and Londonderry, the latter of which involved a major city-centre initiative attracting over 15,000 people as part of the 2013 UK City of Culture programme. Pat chairs MindMatters (the Church of Ireland's mental health promotion project) and the Church of Ireland's Central Communications Board; she is also President of the Church's Youth Department.

News reports

Archbishop of Canterbury will visit Canada to meet with Indigenous leaders

In response to an invitation from Archbishop Linda Nicholls, primate, and National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Mark MacDonald, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby will visit Canada between April 29 and May 3.

He will meet with Anglican Indigenous people and Indigenous leaders in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, Ontario; and finally Toronto, Ontario.

The archbishop of Canterbury is the senior archbishop of the Church of England and of the Anglican Communion worldwide. A particular focus of his primacy is the work of reconciliation wherever needed.

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Anglican history in Canada is entwined with the Church of England, British explorers, colonists and Crown representatives. Their presence in treaty negotiations and subsequent partnership with the government are part of the legacy of colonialism that contributed to residential schools and to abuse and cultural deprivation. A significant purpose behind Welby's visit is to recognize and repent of where those relationships have done damage rather than good, particularly with Indigenous peoples.

Australian Anglicans celebrate Queen's Platinum Jubilee while acknowledging the cost of empire

Anglicans celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years as sovereign in Melbourne with a festival choral evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral on Feb. 6, the anniversary of her accession to the throne in 1952.

The service also acknowledged the cost of colonization, associated with the actions of the British Crown.

The Rev. Glenn Loughrey, a Wiradjuri man, shared the bidding prayers with the dean of Melbourne, the Very Rev. Andreas Loewe.

Loewe gave thanks for the length of years granted to the queen and her faithful devotion, dutiful commitment, loving leadership, gentle constancy, royal dignity and kindly humanity.

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Loughrey prayed for those in need, especially for those suffering because of the actions of the Crown in the ongoing act of colonization. He asked that each might be redeemed by the love of God, and of neighbor, so they might share in God's bounty.

Sick must be cared for in body and soul, Pope Francis says

Caring for the sick means not only healing the wounds of the body but also those that afflict the soul, Pope Francis said.

“Care cannot be divided because the human being cannot be divided. We could — paradoxically — save the body and lose humanity,” the pontiff said in a video message on the eve of the 30th World Day of the Sick, which is celebrated Feb. 11 each year.

“The saints who cared for the sick always followed the Master's teaching: heal the wounds of body and soul; pray and act for physical and spiritual healing together,” he said.

The pope's message, which was released by the Vatican, was sent to participants of a webinar hosted by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

In his message, the pope said that the current pandemic “is teaching us to view illness as a global and not a merely individual phenomenon” and should motivate reflection on other types of “pathologies” that threaten humanity, including individualism and indifference.

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These and other forms of selfishness, he said, generate inequalities, especially in the field of health care “where some enjoy so-called ‘excellence’” while many others “struggle to access basic health care.”

“To cure this ‘social’ virus, the antidote is the culture of fraternity, based on the awareness that we are all equal as human persons, all equal as children of one God,” he said. “On this basis, it will be possible to have effective treatments for everyone. But if we are not convinced that we are all equal, this will not work.”

Church of England General Synod condemns persecution of Christians around the world

Members of the Church of England General Synod have unanimously backed a motion of support for churches around the world as a bishop warned of the “monstrous evil” of the “wholesale denial” of freedom of religion or belief in many countries.

The motion called for dioceses and parishes to pray and offer other practical help to those facing persecution because of their faith and to rally support and raise awareness ahead of a global summit on Freedom of Religion or Belief taking place in London this summer.

In a debate which heard powerful accounts of how Christians maintain their faith amid threats, violence, imprisonment and murder, members were told that 360

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million Christians – about one in seven around the world – face persecution.

In the media

Archbishop Farrell issues charitable reminder on energy rebate

Irish Times

People who may not need the energy rebate, to be paid from April next, should donate it “to the Society of St Vincent de Paul, or other charities supporting the unfortunate,” Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Farrell has said.

“Targeting resources on those who need them most is fair and sensible. When targeting is difficult to achieve, there is an onus on those who don’t need support to take their own responsibility for acting fairly and in consideration of the needs of others,” he said.

“Those who will receive the energy rebate over coming weeks, but don’t actually need it to cover their expenses, have the opportunity to direct it to those in greater need,” he said.

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/archbishop-farrell-issues-charitable-reminder-on-energy-rebate-1.4801954>]

Integrated education: Some schools warn parents over new bill

BBC News NI

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Some schools have told parents an integrated education bill would "elevate integrated schools" above other types of school.

Some Catholic maintained and controlled schools have sent letters to parents expressing concerns about the proposals.

The bill has been brought forward by the Alliance Party's Kellie Armstrong.

Her private member's bill would lead to the promotion, reform and the expansion of integrated education.

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-60369669>]

Has the time come to reduce the number of Catholic dioceses in Ireland?

The Irish Times

While few Catholic churches have so far closed in Ireland, one church has ... Views are mixed on the closure and clustering of parishes and parish ...

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/has-the-time-come-to-reduce-the-number-of-catholic-dioceses-in-ireland-1.4801322>]

PwC report on NI economy

PwC UK

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PwC UK has just launched a special report on the NI economy, highlighting the areas that require concerted focus if NI is to grow and flourish. From education & skills; to trade & investment; to climate and energy....but with a golden thread running through about the requirement for #partnership to effect the change. Each area needs action now. Economist, David Armstrong, was a main contributor to the report, so hear what he has to say, below - and access the report here:

[<http://pwc.to/3rFBOa7>]

[[] <https://twitter.com/bennymiskelly/status/1492082403472547840>]

Companies rethink bereavement policy

LinkedIn News and Wall Street Journal

Millions around the world have gotten a crash course in grief during the past two years. Nearly one million more Americans have died since the start of the pandemic than would have otherwise been expected, mostly from Covid-19. Other tragedies have marched on, too, with lives lost to illnesses and accidents. Increasingly, we're talking about it. About half of 4,327 people surveyed last fall by the New York Life Foundation, the charitable arm of the insurance company, said the pandemic had prompted them to have conversations with family or friends about death.

Many companies are taking a closer look at their bereavement policies, especially as "the pandemic shatters the walls between our work and personal lives," says The Wall Street Journal. Companies are also re-examining conversations around miscarriage and stillbirth, with the likes of Goldman Sachs now offering 20 days for such an

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event. Meanwhile, Facebook parent Meta offers 10 days paid leave for the loss of a non-immediate family member, and Google pays half of the salary of an employee who passed away to their partner for a decade.

[[] <https://www.wsj.com/articles/giving-workers-more-time-to-grieve-in-an-era-of-loss-11644210060?mod=e2li>]

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

An in-depth historic review of Church newspapers and journals

Periodicals and Journalism in Twentieth-Century Ireland 2: A Variety of Voices, edited Mark O'Brien and Felix M. Larkin (Four Courts Press, €50.00)

This new book complements an earlier volume on periodicals and journalism, also edited by Mark O'Brien and Felix Larkin, which was published back in 2014. The two volumes, taken together, offer a comprehensive overview of the periodicals that flourished in Ireland in the last century.

This is a valuable collection of essays on journalism in periodicals that flourished in Ireland in the twentieth century. Nine of the 15 essays are about individual titles. One reviews the economics of periodical publishing. Three survey a number of periodicals with a common purpose or target audience. Two are concerned with particular series of articles in *The Bell* and *The Leader*.

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Felix Larkin provides a scintillating essay on ‘Mirrors of a changing Ireland: The Bell’s series The Fourth Estate, 1944-5’. The series was written by Vivian Mercier and Conor Cruise O’Brien, O’Brien (as a serving civil servant) using his literary pseudonym Donat O’Donnell.

Noteworthy

In analysing the Catholic newspapers, O’Brien was at his brilliant best. Of the two Catholic newspapers, The Irish Catholic and Catholic Standard, he found the latter to be the more noteworthy. It was associated with Alfred O’Rahilly, and O’Brien comments: “Professor O’Rahilly probably does not write all of the Standard every week, but it would be feeble merely to say that he has impressed his personality upon it. It is he who has given it a social policy, consisting of his own monetary theories, he who fights its battles with H.G. Wells and others, he who orients its attitude to science and philosophy and life. Under his occupation the Standard shifted to something that might almost be described as the left.”

Michael Kennedy discusses a series of articles written by T. Desmond Williams under the title ‘A Study in Neutrality’ first for The Leader and later for the Irish Press. Based on British and American wartime sources, captured German documents and off-the-record discussions with Irish officials, those articles provided the first insights into the secret world of neutral Ireland’s wartime diplomacy.

Williams commended Éamon de Valera for his conduct of foreign policy and the preservation of neutrality from 1939 to 1945. Among his many claims, Williams contended that

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Leopold Kerney, the Irish ambassador in Madrid, had been suspected of pro-Axis sympathies and had not always acted as was expected of him by the Irish Department of External Affairs.

This collection of essays is an exemplary publication and a treasury of splendid history writing, which for once places religious opinion in a national context”

Kerney took action to restore his reputation. In the event, Williams was not able to cite a source validating his allegations and lost a libel action in the matter. It was a serious blow to Williams’ reputation as a historian. He was seen to have “turned hearsay into history”, to quote Mr Kennedy.

One of the most informative and interesting essays is that by Ian d’Alton on the Church of Ireland Gazette, which he pithily describes as a “Church paper for Church people”. He traces the paper’s multiple transformations as it attempted to cope with radical cultural, social and political change.

Patrick Maume, a leading contributor to the Dictionary of Irish Biography, directs his attention to the Catholic Bulletin (1911-39), the greenest publication on the island. He shows that its dominant Catholic post-independence nationalism was mainly due to the guiding-hand of Fr Timothy Corcoran, SJ.

The final essay, by Declan O’Keeffe, deals with publications sponsored by members of the Irish province of the Society of Jesus. These range from the devotional Irish Messenger

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of the Sacred Heart and Madonna to the avowedly intellectual Lyceum, New Ireland Review and Studies. Most influential

Of these, Studies was and continues to be the most influential. It first appeared in March 1912 and has surfaced four times a year ever since. Mr O’Keeffe states that it was co-founded by Fr Thomas Finlay, SJ, and Fr Timothy Corcoran, SJ. He could have acknowledged that Alfred O’Rahilly was also one of the magazine’s founders as, before leaving the Society of Jesus just before ordination, O’Rahilly co-edited it and wrote a considerable part of each issue in its first years under his own name and under a pseudonym. And he eventually became its most prolific contributor.

This collection of essays is an exemplary publication and a treasury of splendid history writing, which for once places religious opinion in a national context.

Speaking to the soul

A separate daily posting 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 houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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