

Church News Ireland



Image of the day Mayor of Belfast's visit marking anniversary of Catholic Chaplaincy

People and places



Belfast Lord Mayor's visit to Queen's Catholic Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy was honoured to welcome Belfast's Lord Mayor, Kate Nicholl for a reception to mark its 50th anniversary on Elmwood Avenue at the heart of the Queen's campus.

During her visit, Councillor Nicholl met with Bishop Noel Treanor, distinguished guests, students and friends. She learned more about the contribution Chaplaincy makes to supporting young people to explore the wider world, and



consider how they'll contribute to it and shape its values and character. The Lord Mayor presented the Chaplaincy with a commemorative plaque and gratefully acknowledged its distinguished record of service to the University and the City.

West Glendalough fundraising campaign to restore church

Parishioners in the Blessington Union in West Glendalough have launched a fundraising campaign to restore one of the churches in their parish.

Nestled in the Wicklow hills close to Manor Kilbride, the beautiful St John's Church, Cloughleagh, will be undergoing a significant restoration project which is due to start this year.



The plasterwork in the church has been in disrepair for quite some time and parishioners are hoping to raise €25,000 to complete the project.

“St John’s Cloughleagh was built using local granite in 1834 and has held a special place in many people’s hearts from all walks of life and many people over the years have enjoyed its tranquility and beauty,” explain the parishioners who are leading the fundraising campaign, Sharon Hamilton, Graham Coe and Joy Beattie. “We want to continue to respect the diligent work and spirit of past parishioners and honour their memory by keeping the church in the best condition possible for future generations.”

You can donate towards the project in a number of ways.

Bank transfer to: St John’s Cloughleagh, AIB Naas
IE37AIBK93323677544060
AIBKIE2D

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Cheques made payable to: St.John's Church, Cloughleagh and can be sent to Cloughleagh's treasurer Sharon Hamilton at: The Lamb, Blessington, Co.Wicklow, W91K242.

GoFundme page: Please go to www.gofundme.com and in their search bar type in St.John's Church Cloughleagh Restoration Fund. That will bring you to their donation page.

'I love being a priest,' says newly appointed Dean of Cashel Very Reverend James Mulhall

The Very Reverend James Mulhall was installed as Dean of Cashel and instituted Rector of Cashel Union of Parishes at a special service in the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist and St Patrick's Rock, Cashel, on Sunday.

The new Dean is from a farming background in county Laois and, most recently, was Priest-in-Charge of Kells Union of Parishes with Inistioge as well as Children's Ministry Officer and Safeguarding Trust Officer in the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory.

A qualified social worker, he came to the Church of Ireland in 2001 having been ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic Church in 1987. James succeeds the Very Reverend Gerald Field who retired in August 2021.

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Welcoming James, the Right Reverend Michael Burrows said the occasion was special not just because of the historic context.

“(That’s) because we are celebrating the evolving ministry of someone already well-known to us, who has been an invaluable member of our Diocesan clerical family for many years and whose gifts and contribution are now being recognised through joining the ranks of our deans,” he said.

Preacher at the service was the Reverend David White, Rector of Carlow Union of Parishes and after mentioning James’ distinctive laugh that comes from “a life tempered by experience” he went on to say that Cashel union will have a dean and rector who understands them.

“Most of all, you will find that James will be interested in you,” he said.

“When you look back over his life, all his choices have led him into people’s lives and not just the easy parts of people’s lives.

“As social worker, counsellor, safeguarding officer, priest he has proved himself to be warm, astute, purposeful and kind. I say ‘kind’ because I think this is one of the most important attributes of a priest.”

Father Enda Brady, speaking on behalf of the ecumenical community in Cashel, welcomed Dean James to Cashel and said that he was very much looking forward to working with him in the future.

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Courtesy of Tipperary Live. More at -

[[] <https://www.tipperarylive.ie/news/home/745407/i-love-being-a-priest-says-newly-appointed-dean-of-cashel-very-reverend-james-mulhall.html>]

Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of abuse

The annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of abuse will take place on Friday 25 February 2022. The Day of Prayer has been marked in Irish dioceses and parishes since 2017.

Below are some resources for use on the day:

Candle of Atonement

The bishops of Ireland have blessed and dedicated Candles of Atonement for use in cathedrals and parishes throughout the country on the Day of Prayer and thereafter during the celebration of Mass and other liturgies.

Introducing the Candles of Atonement in 2019, Archbishop Eamon Martin said, “In lighting these candles we will bring to mind our brothers and sisters, and their families, who have been left with a lifelong suffering as a result of abuse, whose trust was so deeply betrayed and whose faith has been so cruelly tested within the sanctity of the Church by perpetrators of abuse.

“I have been privileged to meet with victims and survivors of abuse and members of their families in the four provinces of

Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of abuse

Friday 25 February 2022

www.catholicbishops.ie

Ireland. Many have spoken to me about the importance of prayer for survivors, and for the need for the Church to be open to justice, to atone and never forget them. I have been humbled by their courage and overwhelmed by their generosity of spirit.

“I encourage dioceses and parishes to undertake this prayer initiative and to light the ‘Candle of Atonement’ in Cathedrals and churches across Ireland again this year. It would mean a lot to survivors if the ‘Candle of Atonement’ was a permanent feature in our Cathedrals and parish churches. People visiting the church for quiet prayer might light the ‘Candle of Atonement’, pray the prayer, and bring to mind someone they know who has been directly impacted or

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affected by abuse. I am convinced that prayer and outreach to survivors of abuse is a modern-day corporal and spiritual work of mercy.”

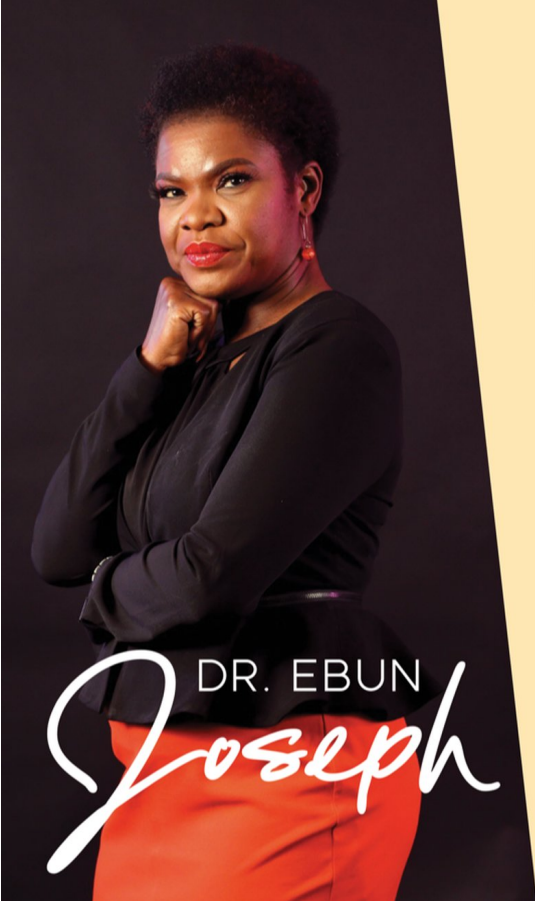
The simple prayer ritual for the dedication and lighting of the ‘Candle of Atonement’ in Cathedrals and parish churches is based on the very moving Penitential Rite composed and prayed by Pope Francis at the final Mass of the World Meeting of Families 2018 in Phoenix Park when he implored the Lord’s mercy for the crimes of abuse and asked for forgiveness.

The ‘Candle of Atonement’ and accompanying prayer are offered as a reminder to all of the need for us to atone, to ask forgiveness as a Church for the suffering caused by abuse. My hope is that these candles will be lit in Cathedrals and parishes across the country as a reminder of the need for atonement and that they will symbolise repentance, light in the darkness and hope.

Faith and Racial Justice – Online event to explore racial justice in church and society

Members of the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough, the wider Church of Ireland and beyond have a fantastic opportunity to engage with issues surrounding faith and racial justice at an online event in March.

The renowned race relations and equality lecturer and activist, Dr Eburn Joseph, will be the speaker at Conversations About Mission on March 16 at 8pm.



DR. EBUN
Joseph


faith &
RACIAL JUSTICE

Exploring racial justice in our communities, churches and society.

MARCH 16TH | 8PM | ZOOM

To book your place, email:
dgcouncilformission@gmail.com

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT
Mission

 Diocesan Council For
MISSION
The United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough

The event will explore racial justice in our communities, churches and society. As well as being committed to highlighting issues around racial justice in the labour market and in society, Eburn is a committed Christian.

Faith and Racial Justice is organised by Dublin & Glendalough Council for Mission and is free and open to all. To join email dgcouncilformission@gmail.com

Chairperson of Dublin & Glendalough Council for Mission, the Revd Rob Clements, said that the event will provide an opportunity to hear from someone who is highly experienced in the area of race relations and equality. "Our hope for the evening is that people will learn how they can start the conversations about racial justice and equality within their own church communities. If we are serious about wanting to embrace Irish people from all ethnic backgrounds and

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newcomers to our communities, then we need these conversations to happen. As Christians we also need to recognise racism in all its insidious forms, we need to call it out and we need to become allies to all who need us,” he stated.

Dr Eburn Joseph is director of the Institute of Antiracism and Black Studies, a race relations consultant, lecturer Black Studies and chairperson of the African Scholars Association Ireland (AFSAI). She was a Teaching Fellow at Trinity College Dublin where she taught the undergraduate module on race, ethnicity and identity on the Master’s programme and developed and taught the module on intersectionality of race and gender. She developed the first module in Black Studies and critical race theory in education at University College Dublin.

Eburn holds the position of Career Development Consultant at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and she previously worked with Business in the Community Ireland for over nine years as Training and Employment Officer. Dr Joseph has a PhD in Equality Studies (2015) and an M.Ed. in Adult Guidance and Counselling from Maynooth University; an IACP accredited diploma in Professional Counselling and a B.Sc. in Microbiology from the University of Benin.

Eburn is also an author; TV panellist, columnist for the Dublin Inquirer on race and an equality activist. Eburn is published and contributes regular responses on contemporary issues of race and racism in Ireland. She recently launched the

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NoToBrainWaste Campaign which highlights the barriers faced by under-employed and over-qualified migrants and Irish-born ethnic minorities.

To book your place and receive a Zoom link please email dgcouncilformission@gmail.com

In the media

Embattled Mid and East Antrim Council paying equivalent of £275,600 a year for temporary boss – 75% more than PM's salary

Belfast Telegraph

Sam McBride - A modestly-sized council is paying £275,600 a year pro rata for a temporary chief executive: 75% more than the PM's salary, more than the salary of NI's top judge, more than double the first minister's salary & 13 times a bin lorry driver's pay.

All of Northern Ireland's 11 councils have agreed rates rises

BBC News

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-60304626>]

The collusion delusion in relation to the RUC

Sage Despatches

An introduction to a blog which is confronting some of the propaganda promulgated as facts in relation to the RUC.

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[<https://sagedespatches.wordpress.com/2022/02/12/the-collusion-delusion-part-1/>]

Dublin archdiocese urges rezoning church sites to allow homebuilding

The Irish Times

The Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin has urged Dublin City Council to assign dozens of church sites in the city for zoning that would allow homes be built on them.

The archdiocese insists there are no current proposals to change the use of any churches other than previously published plans for lands at Finglas West.

But a legal planning submission makes it clear that the church wants to retain freedom of manoeuvre to develop housing on some sites in the future.

The properties listed in a 130-page submission from the archdiocese include 33 churches in areas such as Artane, Ballymun, Beaumont, Cabra, Griffith Avenue, Drimnagh, Navan Road, Raheny, Walkinstown, Terenure, Harrington Street, Church Street and James' Street.

The council has said it wants to tighten the zoning rules governing such sites to preclude any housing or office developments in all but “highly exceptional” circumstances. More at -

[[<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/dublin-archdiocese-urges-rezoning-church-sites-to-allow-homebuilding-1.4804591>]]

Scale of clerical abuse in Italy cloaked by culture of complicity and denial

BBC News

The BBC has uncovered how a culture of complicity and denial conceals the true scale of clerical sex abuse in Italy. One shocking case that we delved into exposes how abusers in the Church can escape justice. This account contains descriptions which readers may find upsetting. [<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-60325191>]

Re-tagging cows becomes Brexit's new sticking point

Daily Telegraph

UK negotiators have told Brussels to ditch post-Brexit Irish Sea border rules that mean British cows must have their ears re-tagged with EU codes when they arrive in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Protocol means the province continues to follow EU animal and plant health rules.

Cows have ear tags, with an ID number and a country code, so they can be tracked. After EU rule changes in July livestock in Northern Ireland must be identified with an NI-specific code in their ear, which replaces the existing UK country identification code.

[[] <http://digitaleditions.telegraph.co.uk/data/884/reader/reader.html?social#!preferred/0/package/884/pub/884/page/34/article/277401>]

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Teachers' exemption from fair employment laws should end, committee told

Belfast Telegraph

The recruitment of teachers in Northern Ireland is currently exempt from legislation outlawing religious discrimination.

This exemption of teachers in Northern Ireland from fair employment legislation should be abolished, the chief commissioner of the Equality Commission has said.

[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/teachers-exemption-from-fair-employment-laws-should-end-committee-told-41353381.html>]

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



After Lockdown: What Hope for Our Future Healing

Light House Trust will be presenting on the above theme at Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim on Thursday, 3rd March and welcome all clergy and faith based people/organisations to join them.

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The event will begin at 10am with a brief introduction from everyone, followed by the presentation which will be facilitated by Mr Conor McCafferty from Zest. After the presentation there will be a discussion around the presentation and the challenge we face going forward.

Claire Hogarth <claire@lighthousecharity.com> 187-189
Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GF. T: 028 9075 5070 M:
07599 105498
[www.lighthousecharity.com]

Renewing our all-age worship - podcast

This Presbyterian Church podcast continues its 'RENEW' theme by turning attention to how we might be able to help renew our all-age worship. Children's Director Nicky Bradley (Knock Presbyterian Church), Kidzone Leader James Cousley (Bloomfield Presbyterian) and Schools Ministry Manager and former children's worker Mark Moorhead (SUNI) join Ruth Bromley to discuss thinking about why we do all-age worship and also some great ideas about how to include all ages in worshipping together and being challenged in our faith.

Listen out for some great ideas and stories of how all-age worship has worked well and also some findings on research into all-age discipleship and the impact it can have on a whole church family.

Listen here:

[<https://audioboom.com/posts/8031028-052-renewing-our-all-age-worship>]



Mindful Mondays: A Spiritual Journey

Sorry - Late posting by CNI. The Rueben P. Job Institute for Spiritual Formation and the Office of Student Life at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary invite you to an hour-long virtual retreat called "Mindful Mondays: A Spiritual Journey."

For the first virtual retreat, G-ETS had alumna Rev. Dr. Jeney Park-Hearn (G-ETS 1999) as the facilitator with the theme "Inward Journey: Tending the Interior Garden of the Soul." Rev. Dr. Park-Hearn is the Director of Contextual Education and lecturer at the School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle University.

This was the first of three Mindful Mondays sessions being held in the Spring 2022 semester. G-ETS hope you will also join them on February 21 and March 14.

February 21, 11:00-12:00 pm

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Theme: "Outward Journey: Tending our Shared Life Together"

Featuring Dr. Elizabeth O. Pierre

March 14, 11:00-12:00 pm

Theme: "Upward Journey: Tending our Devotional Life"

Featuring Dr. Amy Oden

Register Now

[[] <https://www.garrett.edu/events/mindful-mondays-spiritual-journey>]

Faith in the time of the 'new normal', Queen's Birmingham Lenten conversations

Faith in the time of the 'new normal', Queen's Lenten conversations, is designed to create a space for Christians to reflect together on what our faith has to contribute as society looks for a 'new normal'.

There will be talks by Queen's tutors Jen Smith, Carlton Turner, Andrew Hayes and Helen Stanton, followed by conversation in groups.

If you, your church, house group, bible study, or group of friends is looking for a way of connecting faith with today's context, this maybe for you.

To book your place:

<https://www.queens.ac.uk/events/faith-in-the-time-of-the-new-normal>

Perspective

Michael Deacon - P J O'Rourke, the funniest Right-wing writer of our times

Writing a tribute to P J O'Rourke – the great American journalist, who died on Tuesday – is a breeze, for one very simple reason.

He does all the work for you. You don't need to bother racking your brains, trying to think of clever ways to show how brilliant and funny he was. All you need to do is quote him. It does the job much more quickly. And, frankly, much better.

Free: O'Rourke said what he really thought, which gave us permission to do the same

Here he is on military interventionism: "Wherever there's injustice, oppression and suffering, America will show up six months late and bomb the country next to where it's happening." On big government: "Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys." On books: "Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it."

This is the first thing that made his articles so distinctive: the sheer volume of one-liners they contained. He was the stand-up comic of journalism.

But it wasn't just the quality of his jokes that made them catch the eye. It was their subject matter. His jokes were

Right-wing. This makes his work feel increasingly unusual. These days, most political humour is Left-wing. Indeed, it's sometimes argued that political humour has to be Left-wing. In a 2013 essay for the *New Statesman*, the comedian Stewart Lee – who is, of course, Left-wing – wrote that comedy should only “punch up”. Right-wingers, however, had an unseemly habit of “punching down”. And “punching down” wasn't funny. It was just cruel.

Like so many Left-wing ideas, this sounds fine in theory, but doesn't work in practice. If anything, being Left-wing restricts a comedian. The terror of causing offence, and of being seen to “punch down”, imposes severe limits on what a comedian dares to joke about. Which means Left-wing comedians all end up making the same jokes about the same rigidly narrow set of targets. Tories are bad, Brexiteers are bad, capitalism is bad...

P J O'Rourke, by contrast, never worried about causing offence – even to people on his own side. He was a Republican who mocked Republicans. “The Republicans are the party that says government doesn't work,” he wrote, “and then they get elected and prove it.”

He never worried about causing offence. He was a Republican who mocked Republicans

Similarly, he was a conservative who shocked conservatives. For his 1983 book *Modern Manners*, he wrote an entire chapter about the correct etiquette for taking cocaine, and argued that traditionalists should encourage the young to do drugs, because drugs had “taught an entire generation of English kids the metric system”.

This is the wonderful thing about his writing: it was so bracingly free. And, for that matter, freeing. Because he always said what he really thought, he gave you, the reader, permission to do the same. He never lectured or scolded you. On the contrary, his writing absolved you of guilt. Reading him felt almost like going to a journalistic equivalent of confession. It made you feel as if you'd been forgiven for your sins – the sins of not agreeing with the type of trendy Left-wing opinions that seemed to prevail everywhere else.

He hated trendy Left-wing opinions, not just because he thought they were wrong but because they were so drearily earnest. In his view, these two failings were linked: the more earnestly an opinion was expressed, the more wrong it was liable to be. Earnestness was just “stupidity sent to college”. In *Holidays in Hell*, a volume of his foreign reporting, he promised that there would be “no earnest messages in this book. Half the world’s suffering is caused by earnest messages contained in grand theories bearing no relation to reality – Marxism and no-fault auto insurance, to name two.”

For all his flippancy, though, he was capable of being serious. And because this was so rare, it had all the more impact.

“We are fools when we fail to defend civilisation,” he wrote, in 1988. “So-called Western civilisation, as practised in half of Europe, some of Asia and a few parts of North America, is better than anything else available. Western civilisation not only provides a bit of life, a pinch of liberty and the occasional pursuance of happiness, it’s also the only thing that’s ever tried to. Our civilisation is the first in history to

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show even the slightest concern for average, undistinguished, none-too-commendable people like us.”

These days, to proclaim the superiority of Western civilisation is considered even more controversial than it was then. Still, P J O'Rourke was well used to being denounced for his views. Liberals, he once wrote, had often called him “a Nazi” – but “I don't let it bother me, for one simple reason. No one has ever had a fantasy about being tied to a bed and sexually ravished by someone dressed as a liberal.”

Courtesy of Michael Deacon and the Daily Telegraph
17/02/2022

Poem for today

The Wild Swans at Coole by William Butler Yeats

The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me
Since I first made my count;
I saw, before I had well finished,
All suddenly mount
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings
Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trode with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water,
Mysterious, beautiful;
Among what rushes will they build,
By what lake's edge or pool
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day
To find they have flown away?

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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