

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Cahir Castle in Tipperary

February 19, 2022

Image of the day

Cahir Castle in Tipperary have just won Europe's favourite filming location award 2022. An incredible achievement for all the team who assist in bringing the stories to life for visitors and now the big screen. The castle was built by the O'Brien family in the 13th century it remains one of the largest castles in Ireland, and dramatic!

People and places



Methodist Youth & Children's leaders Overflow weekend

Last weekend Irish Methodist Youth & Children's Department gathered young leaders from across the island of Ireland together to discover what it means to be wholehearted followers of Jesus in their own context.



Through worship, teaching, workshops, prayer and small group reflections they spent the day seeking God and learning more about who he has called them to be; as leaders in the church and in their own everyday lives.

Overflow this year was a significant and uplifting time, filled with joy and enthusiasm as they were able to meet in person again for the first time in two years!

Girls' Brigade Leaders complete training

Leaders within 353rd First Rathfriland Presbyterian Girls' Brigade completed their officer and sub officer training online via GB headquarters during the lockdown.



These certificates were handed out during Sunday's morning service (13th February) by Company Captain, Rebecca McConnell (far left): officer Ellise Kernaghan, officer Kathryn Annett, officer Rosemary Murray, sub-officer Emily Johnstone, officer Jayne Scott and officer Alexandra Bready. Not pictured is Kerrie Davidson (nee Annett) who also completed her officer training.

Attention all knitters and crocheters

This may seem way to early but we need your help! Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish would be grateful for you to knit or crochet poppies. They write -

“This year for remembrance we plan to do a large display of poppies on the outside of our church. (Further details to follow later) This is to honour all of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. These can be any size and can be knitted, crochet or made of felt.

February 19, 2022

“Spread far and wide and let’s make this possible and remember those fallen heroes “who give their tomorrow for our today”

Poppies can be left at the parish hall, with Joanne at the bungalow, brought to church or posted to Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church, 21 Main Street, Ballykelly, BT49 9HS



SUPPORT: Low Income Families Caring for Disabled Children

The NI Health Minister this week announced an additional £500k in funding to support low income families caring for seriously ill or severely disabled children.

The additional money will be allocated through the Family Fund charity who already offer a wide range of goods and services which are focused on directly supporting the needs of a child with a disability or who is seriously ill. They also work closely with the families of those children affected by a disability or serious illness.

To apply for an urgent Family Fund grant see link below for details.

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/grants-northern-ireland>

Connor Connections stimulating reading

The spring issue of the diocesan magazine “Connor Connections” will be in parishes this weekend, and you can pick up your free copy.

The cover image (next page) links to a story inside about Muddy Church events which took place across the diocese in recent months.

Feature articles include reports on the work of All Nations Ministries; Muckamore Parish Development Association’s Community Hub which is transforming lives in the Ballycraigy Estate; and a special parish focus on Rathcoole.

The Rev Dr Pat Mollan, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Ministry with the Churches Ministry of Healing – the Mount talks about her life and work.



Jeni McCaughey, a parishioner of Whitehead and Islandmagee, was among a group of Christian Aid Ireland supporters who took part in the People's March during the COP26 conference in Glasgow last November, and she shares some thoughts on the conference and its impact.

Two Connor clergy – the Rev Chris St John, rector of St Nicholas', Carrickfergus; and the Rev Glenn Thompson, OLM deacon in Kilmakee – both hold Black Belts in martial arts. Hear from them about the commitment and hard work it takes to get to this level, and the enjoyment they get from their sport.

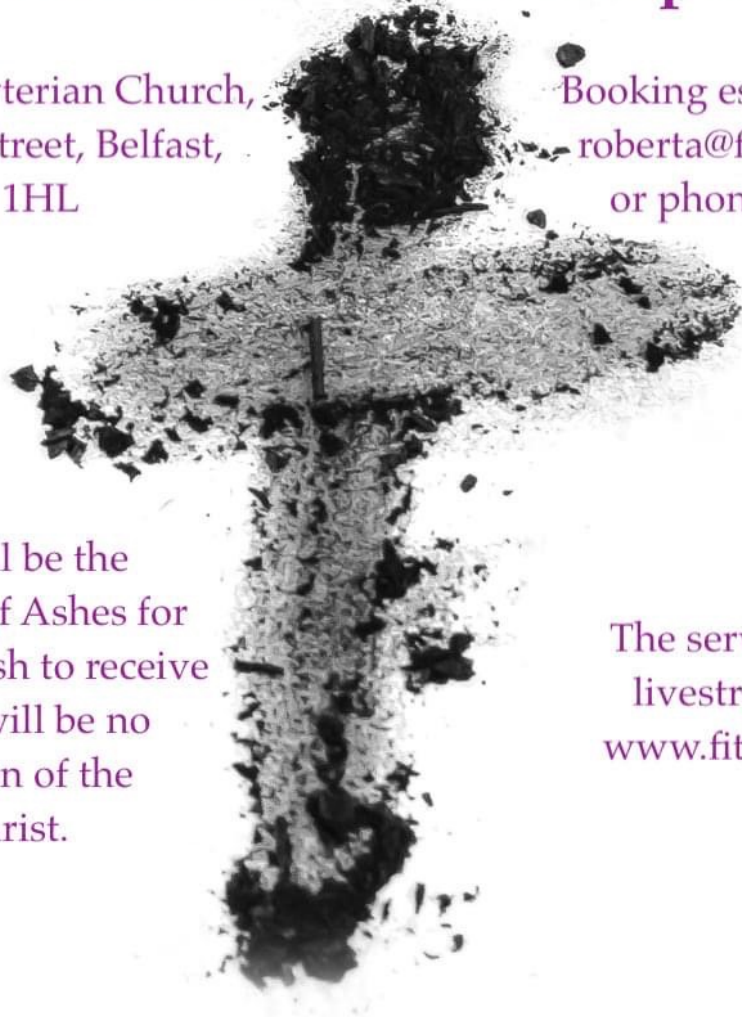
Other articles include an interview with Maureen Dunn who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours for services to drama and the performing arts, and a tribute to the late Archdeacon Jack Patterson, who spent most of his ministry in Ballintoy, Dunseverick and Rathlin.

There is also the latest in youth and children's ministry and the regular letter from the Bishop, the Rt Rev George Davison.

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service 2nd March 2022 at 8.00pm

Fitzroy Presbyterian Church,
University Street, Belfast,
BT7 1HL

Booking essential: email
roberta@fitzroy.org.uk
or phone 90319710



There will be the
Imposition of Ashes for
those who wish to receive
it. There will be no
celebration of the
Eucharist.

The service will be
livestreamed on
www.fitzroy.org.uk

Everyone is very welcome

Archdiocese of Dublin submission on Dublin City Council Development Plan

The Archdiocese of Dublin has made a submission to Dublin City Council on the Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2022–28 in response to the public invitation to submit views as part of the statutory planning process.

The Draft Plan proposes a zoning status for certain institutional lands which would preclude any housing or office development in all but “highly exceptional” circumstances. In its submission, the Archdiocese has pointed out that this would unfairly restrict options which might be appropriate in the event that a church or school property was no longer required to meet the needs of the mission of the Church in particular areas. A more reasonable approach would be to allow future uses of redundant sites to be considered on their merits, without unnecessary restrictions.

Individual sites were referenced in the submission to illustrate the scope of the proposed zoning restrictions. The submission made it clear, and the Archdiocese reiterates, that it has no plans for any change of use of current properties, other than a project in Finglas West which is already well advanced. Most Precious Blood – Cabra West Parish has in the past, also facilitated the construction of social housing across a significant portion of their church site.

Dublin is experiencing great change, as reflected in population movement, commuting patterns and social and cultural attitudes. The Church in Dublin is acutely conscious of the need for responsible stewardship of the resources in its care and the need to develop new ways of accompanying the people of our time. The Archdiocese recently published a Statement of Mission which highlights the need for new thinking and a shift of mind-set. This Statement was issued to mark a period of review and renewal which is beginning across the Archdiocese. Like every charity, the Church in

February 19, 2022

Dublin is required to satisfy itself that resources continue to be appropriately used in support of its mission.

In that context, it is likely that in the future specific properties will become redundant. It is appropriate that the Archdiocese would highlight its concern at possible unfair restrictions on the range of options in that event. Unfair restrictions could give rise to the appearance and reality of discrimination, however unintended.



Are you passionate about sharing the good news of Jesus with children?

Are you excited about developing effective ministry to equip children and their families to follow Christ?

Do you have energy, enthusiasm and leadership skills?

We're looking for a new Children's Worker to lead our Children's Ministry Team.

15 hours per week

**For more information or to apply, please contact:
Dean Sam Wright
sam.wright@lisburncathedral.org**

**Closing date
Friday 11th March 2022 at 5pm**



Lisburn Cathedral

February 19, 2022

It is not long since the Church, through the Irish Episcopal Conference, was asked by Government, through the Minister for Housing, to cooperate in addressing the housing crisis by making surplus land and buildings available for housing development. In response, the Bishops' Conference indicated their desire that redundant parish properties should, as in the past, whenever appropriate, be made available for housing and especially social housing. It seems ironic that this would appear to be made more difficult by the proposed zoning status of significant numbers of properties in Dublin.

The Archdiocese welcomes the opportunity to bring its concerns to public attention during the consultative phase of the preparation of Development Plan

News reports

Spire of church in Wells toppled by Storm Eunice

The top of a church spire in Somerset toppled in high winds on Friday as Storm Eunice swept the UK, causing widespread damage and at least one reported fatality.

Red weather warnings were issued from Thursday night. Trains were cancelled, vehicles were blown across roads, and hundreds of buildings were damaged in winds which, in one place, reached a reported 122 mph. At least two injuries have been reported in England, and in Ireland one man died after being struck by a falling tree.

On Friday lunchtime, the top section of the spire of St Thomas's, Wells, was seen to be wobbling. It then blew down and fell on a path in the churchyard. No one was hurt. The dramatic moment was caught in a video posted on Twitter.

The Revd Claire Towns, Priest-in-Charge at St Thomas's, told the Church Times on Friday that she had initially been more concerned about the trees in her garden, thinking: "The church should be alright — it's been here for 165 years."

And the Revd Nick Fridd, a non-stipendiary minister at the church, received a call from a concerned parishioner who had thought that the spire might be in danger. "I didn't really believe him," Mr Fridd said. "It's been there so long."

Ms Towns received a call from Avon & Somerset Police, asking whether it was supposed to look that way. The police closed the road beside the church as a precaution. Ms Towns then watched as the top two meters of the spire, crowned with a weathervane, came tumbling down.

"I won't tell you what I said. . . We got off lightly. Had the wind been in the opposite direction it would have fallen on the church roof and caused catastrophic damage."

The portion of the spire that fell is more or less intact, and architects have already gathered up the debris, she said.

St Thomas's, which is Grade-II listed, was consecrated in 1857, and the spire dates from that time. The church is now

February 19, 2022

closed pending the report of structural engineers, and no services will be held over the weekend.

The claims director at Ecclesiastical Insurance, Jeremy Trott, said: “We are expecting a significant increase in calls from customers affected by Storm Eunice, and our claims-handlers are ready to support those affected by the weather. We’re urging customers to stay safe and not take any unnecessary risks in this weather.”

Multiplying in York

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell joined members of the Multiply community, Upper Room York, for a night of curry and faith conversation.

The Upper Room started life as a group exploring the Christian faith in the upstairs room of The Leeman Pub, in Leeman Road, York. It has since grown and now meets through the week in homes and venues across the west side of the City.

Part of the Multiply network, the Diocese of York's initiative to resource New Worshipping Communities and reach those in their 20s, 30s and 40s, the Upper Room community offers opportunities to grow in Christian discipleship, explore faith, meet new friends at social gatherings and get involved in community outreach.

Archbishop Stephen enjoyed curry and conversation with the group before taking questions and sharing some of his faith inspirations.



They gathered at the home of Upper Room team members, Pete and Rhiannon Hale which they run as Footprints Home Nursery during the day.

Multiply Minister, the Reverend Matt Woodcock said: “We had a cracking night with Archbishop Stephen. He inspired and encouraged us with some honest reflections about his own journey of faith and gave us loads to think and pray about. The night reaffirmed to us our deep desire to be a Christ-centred community which makes a difference. Top night.”

Deborah Bell, a mother-of-two who regularly attends Upper Room gatherings, said: “It was so refreshing to hear Archbishop Stephen speak so frankly about his own life and faith. He really encouraged me to see church as a community of people. I get so much peace and purpose from coming to Upper Room and my faith has deepened because of it.”

Upper Room York is connected to St Barnabas Church, Leeman Road and St Paul’s Church, Holgate.

New Zealand votes to ban conversion therapy

Engaging in gay conversion therapy is to become a criminal offence in New Zealand after legislation received near unanimous support from lawmakers.

The ban makes conducting conversion therapy punishable by up to five years in prison.

The law was passed by the New Zealand parliament on Tuesday, with 112 MPs voting in favour.

Only eight MPs voted against the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill, which was introduced to the parliament last year.

"This is a great day for New Zealand's rainbow communities," Minister of Justice Kris Faafoi said.

"Conversion practices have no place in modern New Zealand."

Banning conversion therapy was one of the promises of Jacinda Ardern's Labour Party if it was re-elected two years ago.

The New Zealand parliament's backing coincides with a new gay conversion therapy ban in the Australian state of Victoria.

February 19, 2022

That ban came into force on Thursday and carries a prison sentence of up to 10 years.

It has been strongly opposed by evangelicals who fear that Christian parents risk going to jail unless they support their child's desire to transition.

C of E Pensions Board clears deficit

The Church of England Pensions Board expects a valuation carried out this year to declare its scheme for clergy pensions fully funded for the first time since its inception.

The Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (CEFPS), which provides pensions for clergy and others in ministry for service, has been in deficit at each valuation since it was created in 1998. This was the year in which the Church Commissioners — who retain responsibility for clergy pensions earned in service until the end of 1997 — transferred the pensions burden to dioceses.

Janani Luwum day celebrated by Ugandans

Anglicans in Uganda, together with the rest of Ugandans commemorated the 7th Janani Luwum day.

Janani Luwum day is celebrated every February 16th. That day was made public by the government of Uganda after a request from Anglican Church. He was an Anglican Archbishop who was brutally killed by dictator Idi Amin A

February 19, 2022

Dada in the 1970s,” said the Rev. James Musazi of Saint Paul Church on the outskirts of Kampala.

”It is dedicated to the good deeds, life and service of Janani Luwum, the former archbishop of the Anglican Church of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Boga-Zaire.

Archbishop Luwum was one of the most influential leaders of the modern church in Africa and a leading voice in criticizing the excesses of Idi Amin’s regime. He was killed on February 16, 1977, shortly after delivering a note of protest to Amin against arbitrary killings and unexplained disappearances of civilians and soldiers.

Shortly afterward, the archbishop and other leading churchmen were accused of being agents of the exiled former president Milton Obote, and for planning to stage a coup.

Today’s celebrations took place at Kololo ceremonial grounds with Uganda President Museveni as the guest of honor.

In his speech, president Museveni hailed the late Luwum for being a true Christian who stood by his word even if it meant to be killed for talking the truth. He called on Ugandan Christians to emulate him.

**Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts,
and books**



Discover Garrett: Experience a day in the life of a Garrett Seminary student!

We are excited to invite you to Discover Garrett, a (virtual) visit day on March 9, 2022, that can be customized into the perfect discernment experience for you!

Whether you are feeling called to ministry for the Church, or to caregiving and advocacy vocations like chaplaincy, counseling, community organizing, activism or non-profit leadership, Discover Garrett will have everything that you need to consider how seminary can support you and your goals.

This will be your opportunity to sit in on a class, hear from current students, alumni, faculty, and admissions staff, join worship, and engage directly with some of our degree directors, centers and institutes.

This day is meant to be built for you! And though our hope is that you will join us for the entire day, we want to give you the flexibility to customize your schedule so that it can fit into your life, or so that it can reflect your most pressing questions. Simply select the sessions you are planning to attend, and then you will receive a customized itinerary a week before the event with the relevant Zoom links.

We are so grateful to be partnering with you as you discern your next steps! Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of any help. You can reach the Office of Admissions at getadmitted@garrett.edu.

[[] <https://www.garrett.edu/events/discover-garrett-experience-day-life-garrett-seminary-student>]

Illuminating Dark Times: Catholic Social Teaching for all

Adult learning at St Paul's presents Anna Rowlands and Paula Gooder in conversation

Premieres online Tuesday 22 February 7.00-7.45pm

Where can we find hopeful, transformative stories in the dark times we live in? How can we read the 'signs of the times', and act for the good? Theologians Anna Rowlands and Paula Gooder explore the roots and universality of Catholic Social Teaching, its foundations in the Gospels, and what it can teach us about working for justice, freedom and the common good when the world seems dark.

Dr Anna Rowlands is the St Hilda Professor of Catholic Social Thought & Practice at Durham University, and the author of *Towards a Politics of Communion: Catholic Social Teaching for Dark Times*. She has interests in everyday ethics and the way that academic research and teaching can engage in wider forms of public benefit and the common good.

Dr Paula Gooder is Canon Chancellor at St Paul's Cathedral and a leading Biblical scholar. Her recent books include *The Parables* and *Phoebe: A Story*.

The event is free, but if you are able to make a donation to the continuing learning programme at St Paul's Cathedral when you register for the event they would be very grateful.

[[] <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/illuminating-dark-times-catholic-social-teaching-for-all-tickets-247079861517>]

Poem for today

Mid-Term Break by Seamus Heaney

I sat all morning in the college sick bay
Counting bells knelling classes to a close.
At two o'clock our neighbours drove me home.

In the porch I met my father crying—

February 19, 2022

He had always taken funerals in his stride—
And Big Jim Evans saying it was a hard blow.

The baby cooed and laughed and rocked the pram
When I came in, and I was embarrassed
By old men standing up to shake my hand

And tell me they were 'sorry for my trouble'.
Whispers informed strangers I was the eldest,
Away at school, as my mother held my hand

In hers and coughed out angry tearless sighs.
At ten o'clock the ambulance arrived
With the corpse, stanced and bandaged by the nurses.

Next morning I went up into the room. Snowdrops
And candles soothed the bedside; I saw him
For the first time in six weeks. Paler now,

Wearing a poppy bruise on his left temple,
He lay in the four-foot box as in his cot.
No gaudy scars, the bumper knocked him clear.

A four-foot box, a foot for every year.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily 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 houstonmckelvey@mac.com
