

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Visitor to Armagh

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Visitor to Armagh

The Armagh cathedral community were delighted to welcome Tánaiste Micheál Martin TD to the Cathedral on Thursday 12th January. The Tánaiste is pictured along with the Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Shane Forster.

People and places

All Minds Matter in Kiltiernan Parish

Kiltiernan Parish has been promoting positive mental health and saying thank you to its volunteers at the same time.

As part of the Kiltiernan All Minds Matter programme, the parish ran a volunteer appreciation evening on January 6 for everyone who volunteered at the Gathering Grounds Cafe.

The Gathering Grounds Café is an outreach programme of Kiltiernan Parish. Its mission is to promote community and belonging, growth and healing.

“We have an amazing team of volunteers – baristas, bakers, servers, etc. – of all ages who make the programme happen,” explains the Rector, the Revd Rob Clements.



Appreciation evening for Gathering Grounds volunteers

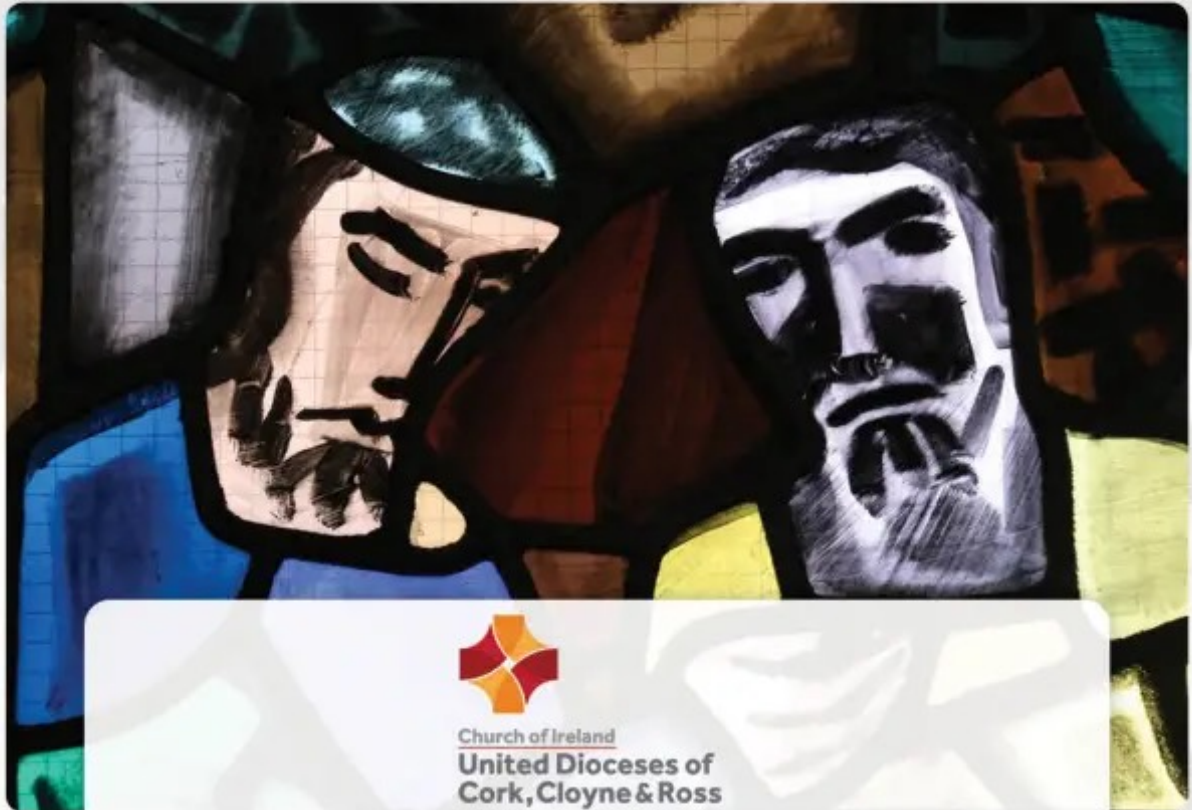
“Not only do we offer amazing coffee and treats, but we also provide a space for conversation and connection. It’s a space where health and wellbeing are valued. It’s a special place, but its only special because of the people who invest in it,” he added.

Mindful of the connection between gratitude and positive mental health, they wanted to say ‘thank you’ to all their volunteers. They provided a meal for volunteers and their significant others. Seventy people of all ages gathered, and a room was provided (with a movie and pizza). for an additional 20 children. A group of transition year students acted as servers.



On each table there was a jar with messages to encourage conversations about health and wellbeing.

“The volunteers spend their time and talents filling other’s buckets. This evening of appreciation was an opportunity to fill up theirs,” Rob said.



An invitation from the Bishop to join him in
A Morning Vigil
for Vacant Parishes in the
Diocese and Vocations

Drop in, stay for awhile, come & go;

Saturday, 28th January, 2023
between 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cathedral Church of Saint Colman,
Cloyne, (P25KC93)

Coffee etc available throughout and from 10.30 a.m.
Short Service at 11 a.m. followed by intervals of
silence, readings and prayer.

Prayer stations also in the nave and side chapels

Illustration: Saint Fin Barre of Cork and Saint Colman of Cloyne, Cloyne Cathedral



 **THE PRIESTS**
IN CONCERT AT
ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES CHURCH,
CHURCH ROAD, HOLYWOOD
FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY - 7.30PM

WITH
BALLYCLARE
MALE CHOIR



Tickets for this concert in aid of Holywood Parish are available at

[\[https://holywood-parish-church.sumupstore.com/product/the-priests-and-ballyclare-male-choir\]](https://holywood-parish-church.sumupstore.com/product/the-priests-and-ballyclare-male-choir)



Swingles in Derry and Dublin

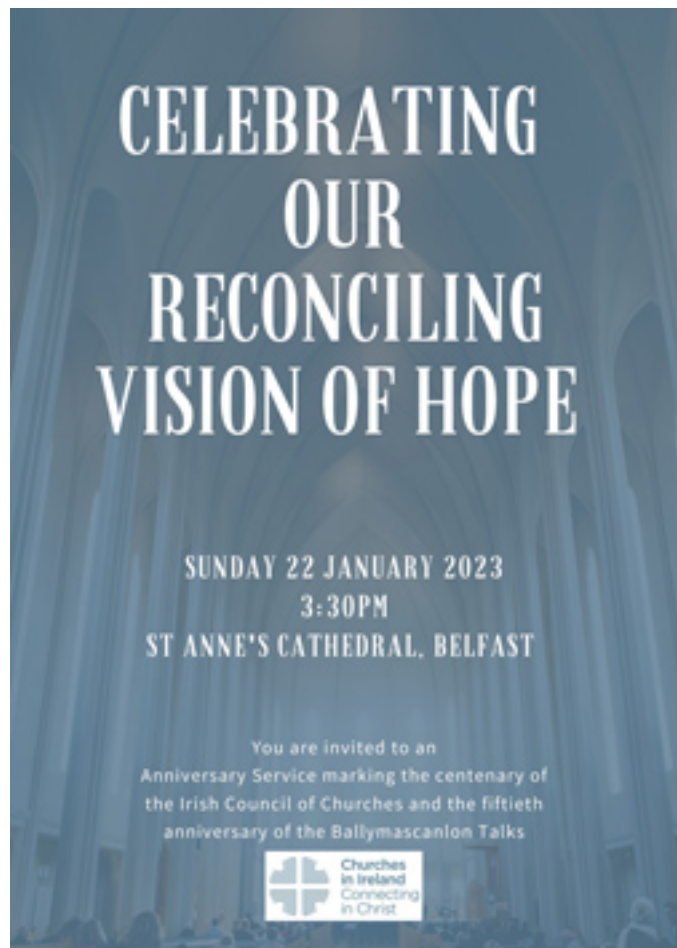
These two evenings promise to be memorable with the multi Grammy Award winning vocal group. Early bookings advised.

The newly established St Columb's School of Music, Derry will present The Swingles in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin on Saturday 4th March, 2023 at 8pm.

The Swingles are a world renowned vocal ensemble. With a natural flair as entertainers, their stylish, classy shows take them to venues and festival stages across the world. They will perform the program 'Bach and Beyond' on Saturday 4th March in the Cathedral.

You can purchase your tickets now by visiting:

<https://www.stcolumbsschoolofmusic.com/event-details/the-swingles-in-dublin-ireland>



News reports

Celebrating a reconciling vision of hope

The Irish Council of Churches and Irish Inter-Church Meeting will be holding a joint service of worship on the theme 'Celebrating our Reconciling Vision of Hope' in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on Sunday January 22.

The purpose of Celebrating our Reconciling Vision of Hope is to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Irish Council of Churches – one of the world's oldest national


representative church bodies – whose first meeting took place on January 23 1923.

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The service will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ballymascanlon Talks which led to the establishment of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting, through which the ICC engages with the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

The service will be led by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde, and the preachers will be the Most Rev Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, and the Rev Dr Harold Good, former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and recipient of the World Methodist Peace Award in 2007.

The ICC states: “At the service, we will give thanks for the courage of our predecessors, for whom these were brave



Let us therefore make every effort
to do what leads to peace
and to mutual edification.

~ Romans 14:19

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initiatives, recommit ourselves to the ongoing work of reconciling, which is part of the unfinished work of peace on our island, and bear witness to the hope that comes from the promises of a new creation in which there will be no more division, violence or pain.”

The service begins at 3.30pm in Belfast Cathedral and all are welcome.

In the media

C of I bishop's key role in Rome for Anglican Communion

Rome's Anglican Centre promotes ecumenism in the Eternal City and beyond.

Every Tuesday, the Anglican Centre in Rome hosts a midday Eucharist in the Chapel of St. Augustine of Canterbury followed by a lively luncheon on its premises in the Doria Pamphilj Palace in Roman College Square, just steps from the Pantheon in the heart of the Italian capital's historic centre, Lynette Wilson of Episcopal News Service writes.

Founded in 1966 after a meeting between Pope Paul VI and then Archbishop of Canterbury Michael Ramsey, the Anglican Centre serves as the Anglican Communion's representation in Rome. Today, its director is a liaison

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between Pope Francis and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and it serves as a space for ecumenical encounters and dialogue.

Rt. Rev. Michael Burrows, chair of the centre's board of trustees

“Since Vatican II, when the centre was founded, thanks to visionary and generous benefactors at the time, it has been important that the Anglican Communion has the equivalent of an embassy in the Eternal City,” the Rt. Rev. Michael Burrows, chair of the centre’s board of trustees, told Episcopal News Service during a mid-December visit to the centre. “This is a place of networking, a place of hospitality, a place of study, a place where all sorts of conversations take place, as befits the sense of the diplomatic, as well as the ecclesiastical nature of Rome.”

Michael Burrows is the bishop of Limerick and Tuam in the Anglican Church of Ireland. On Dec. 13, during the Feast of St. Lucy, Burrows celebrated an Advent service at the centre. The Rev. Rhona Dunphy — then a locum, or temporary minister, at St. Andrew’s Church of Scotland in Rome — preached on Matthew 21:28-32, and how humans respond to authority.

“As a minister, for me, it’s very important to hear other people preach and to be part of a worshipping community, as well as leading a worshipping community, and the fact that services are celebrated here during the week — it makes it very easy to do that,” Dunphy told ENS after the service. She has 23 years of experience working in Europe’s ecumenical space, mostly based in Germany. “And it’s

exciting to be in a place like Rome and be working with and worshiping with people from other denominations.”

In addition to weekly Tuesday services – open to visitors, tourists and pilgrims – the centre hosts a weekly prayer circle attended by ecumenical partners, and it coordinates joint education, mission and ecumenical projects with the Vatican and other partners. It also offers study courses and access to a larger Christian research library, as well as introductory access to other local library collections and universities.

“You can find so many different people from different traditions and backgrounds here,” said Allison Beaty, a doctoral student at the Pontifical Gregorian University, which traces its founding to St. Ignatius of Loyola in 1551. “We have Orthodox ... we have many Catholics, some of the Baptists will come, Methodists – there’s just such a great mixture of people that come together and it creates lots of interesting discussions.”

Beaty is a member of the Church of the Nazarene, which emerged in North America in the 19th century out of the Wesleyan-Holiness movement within Methodism. “As a Wesleyan, we feel close to the Anglicans, theologically and in our tradition,” she said. “So I feel comfortable here. I guess I kind of feel like I’m around my big brothers and sisters in a way.”

Creating a space of welcome is of utmost importance to the Rt. Rev. Ian Ernest, the centre’s director.

“Given that the Anglican Centre is the Anglican Communion’s only ecumenical institution, and given its location, it’s important that it be visible, active and hospitable,” he told ENS. “This place is a place of hospitality. And when we talk about hospitality, it’s the Christian way of life, to open oneself to the other, to open one’s house to the other, to have a conversation with the other, to be able to engage, even at times with difficult situations and in difficult conversations, and hospitality resides with humility,” he said.

“The calling of this place is to be humble enough to share what we have and to receive from the other, and out of hospitality comes encounter. This place is a place of encounter [for people from different backgrounds]. It’s just a symbol of what the church of Christ is: the diversity of people sharing a common faith, a group of people coming from all walks of life to be able to proclaim together the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ, or else the Good News won’t be good news,” Ernest, who previously served as the bishop of Mauritius in the Church of the Province in the Indian Ocean, added.

The Rev. Matthew A. Laferty, director of the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome, works closely with Ernest on behalf of their respective communions, and on a personal level, they have covenanted to support each other on their ecumenical journeys.

“Even though the largest part of our briefs is working with the Catholic Church in the Holy See, it’s important in our witness of Christian unity to live that out in visible ways with one another,” said Laferty, who has worked in the

ecumenical space for over a dozen years and who is a regular at both the Tuesday Eucharist and the Thursday prayer circle.

The Anglican Centre is about more than the unity of Anglicans and Roman Catholics, it pursues a larger ecumenical vision of unity, the Rev. Margaret Rose, ecumenical and religious deputy to the presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, told ENS.

“Unity among all the churches, mutual recognition of ministry and eucharistic hospitality; being in communion with one another,” she said. “Today’s ecumenical work is about mutual dialogue and coming to a new place together.”

Burrows, the Irish bishop who serves as chair of the board of trustees, has witnessed a shift in the ecumenical movement, at least at home, where sectarianism has historically led to segregation and violence, and he sees how dialogue between leaders can have a positive impact on communities.

“In these days of a receptive ecumenism, we learn more and more from each other’s strengths as we work together,” Burrows said. “The work of the center does trickle down and does make a difference in terms of [local] initiatives.

“I come from a country perhaps more bedeviled by ecumenical difficulties in a previous generation than most countries on the globe. We’ve had a long history of challenging the difficult Anglican-Roman Catholic relationships, and [with] this past generation, everything has been transformed into positivity and vision. And it’s in large

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measure because of the kinds of conversations and the kinds of trust that emanate from here.”

— Lynette Wilson is a reporter and managing editor of Episcopal News Service.

Photos at

[<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2023/01/10/romes-anglican-centre-promotes-ecumenism-in-the-eternal-city-and-beyond/>]

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Church Action on Poverty Sunday - 19 February 2023

Give, Act and Pray as part of the movement to unlock UK poverty.

Church Action on Poverty is looking for at least 150 churches across the UK to hold a special service or take a collection on Church Action on Poverty Sunday.

It says that ‘building a powerful movement to unlock poverty has never been more important. The cost of living crisis threatens to sweep millions into poverty, threatening their dignity and agency. No one should have to face the choice between heating and eating.

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‘To prevent more people being swept deeper into poverty, it’s vital that those of us affected have a say. Now more than ever, churches and communities need to stand together and uphold each other’s dignity, agency and power.’

Resources

Free worship resources are available to reflect and pray for change, and raise funds. You can sign up for a resource pack on the Church Action on Poverty website.

Webinar

Join Church Action on Poverty online on Wed 25 January, 12:30-1:30pm, for tips and support on how to take part.

“We'll talk you through the resources and support that are available from Church Action on Poverty to help you make your event a success. We'll look at worship materials, fundraising ideas, stories, videos, digital presentations, and more.

There'll also be opportunities to talk and share ideas with other churches in the movement.

(To sign up to be part of Church Action on Poverty Sunday and get a resource pack, just visit www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday.)

Sign up via Eventbrite.

[<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/get-ready-for-church-action-on-poverty-sunday-2023-tickets-479892670897>]

New Irish Youth Orchestra is back for 2023

New Irish Youth Orchestra is back for 2023, offering a unique weekend for young instrumental players to come together to develop their musicianship, make new friends and learn more about God. Venue - Ganaway Activity Centre. Date 17-19 February 2023

It's open to young people aged 11-17 who are at Grade 5 or higher on an orchestral instrument. Please help us spread the word to anyone you know who might benefit from this experience.

This year's residential weekend will start in the afternoon of Friday 17th February and finish with an evening concert in Glenmachan Church of God on Sunday 19th February. Most schools are off on half term in the week leading up to the residential, but for anyone in school on Friday 17th you can just come as soon as you can.

Who can join?

You need to be:

- aged 11-17 (of secondary school age)
- able to play a brass, woodwind, strings (including harp) or percussion instrument at Grade 5 standard or higher. It doesn't matter what exams you have – the standard you play at is the important thing.
- willing to attend an audition with 2 of our team
- able to pass a simple sight-reading test
- willing to play songs for Christian worship.

“Please note that we are focusing on orchestral instruments, so we can’t offer places to other instruments such as guitar or bagpipes”.

Further details and audition registration can be found at the link below: <https://www.newirisharts.com/events>

Dream Project



YOUNG WOMENS PROJECT
DREAM
EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN,
PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Young women aged 16-24

**8 Week project starting 23rd January 2023
on Monday evenings 6:30-8:30pm**

**Take part in group work activities, Build your self
Esteem and challenge yourself!**

**Contact Yasmin for more info on:
079202758909
Yasmin.crothers@mencap.org.uk**



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Great opportunity for young women aged 16-24

8 week project starting Monday 23rd January 2023, based in the Belfast Mencap centre.

Take part in group work, learn new skills, gain a qualification and improve your confidence and self esteem! 😊👑

Sign up below

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Any question's contact Yasmin on 07920275890 or yasmin.crothers@mencap.org.uk

Poem for today

A Song for Simeon by T S Eliot

Lord, the Roman hyacinths are blooming in bowls and
The winter sun creeps by the snow hills;
The stubborn season has made stand.
My life is light, waiting for the death wind,
Like a feather on the back of my hand.
Dust in sunlight and memory in corners
Wait for the wind that chills towards the dead land.

Grant us thy peace.

I have walked many years in this city,
Kept faith and fast, provided for the poor,
Have taken and given honour and ease.
There went never any rejected from my door.

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Who shall remember my house, where shall live my
children's children
When the time of sorrow is come?
They will take to the goat's path, and the fox's home,
Fleeing from the foreign faces and the foreign swords.

Before the time of cords and scourges and lamentation
Grant us thy peace.

Before the stations of the mountain of desolation,
Before the certain hour of maternal sorrow,
Now at this birth season of decease,
Let the Infant, the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,
Grant Israel's consolation
To one who has eighty years and no to-morrow.

According to thy word,
They shall praise Thee and suffer in every generation
With glory and derision,
Light upon light, mounting the saints' stair.
Not for me the martyrdom, the ecstasy of thought and
prayer,
Not for me the ultimate vision.
Grant me thy peace.

(And a sword shall pierce thy heart,
Thine also).

I am tired with my own life and the lives of those after me,
I am dying in my own death and the deaths of those after
me.

Let thy servant depart,
Having seen thy salvation.

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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