

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Canterbury Christmas in Carolina**

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January 6, 2024

# Image of the day

## Canterbury Christmas in Carolina







**As part of the celebrations at Christ Episcopal Church, Elizabeth City, in North Carolina the community presented “Christmas at Canterbury” - the mother church of the Anglican Communion.**

The parish mission statement begins - “Since 1825, Christ Episcopal Church has never lost sight of its primary function which is to go out into the world making disciples of Jesus Christ, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19) We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of God and we strive to live out its precepts in every aspect of church life and ministry.

“Parallel to that is the church’s desire to help those in need through mission and outreach. In the gospels, Jesus calls us to pay particular mind to the poor and needy in our midst.

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Christ Church has a long history of showing the love of Jesus Christ by serving "the least of these" in our community. “

You will also find an informative bulletin to download at their web site at - [<https://christchurchecity.org/>]

## People and places



## Community ascent of Round Tower in Kells

The OPW are working on the Round Tower in Kells. Currently it is surrounded with scaffolding, and is all



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wrapped up in plastic now. Before they wrapped it some folk from the Parish and community, including Rev William Seale (Rector) had an opportunity to climb up to the top of it.

## Presbyterian Churches New Year Communion services

**Knowhead and Ballyarnett Presbyterian Churches, held New Year Communion Services, on the Lord's Day 7th January, 2024 at 10.30am & 12 noon.**

Pictured: an example of how the Communion Table at Knowhead is dressed for The

Lord's Supper. The custom at Knowhead is for the covering cloth to be removed by members of Kirk Session following the sermon, immediately prior to the celebration of the



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sacrament. This harkens back to The Reformation to prevent "superstitious gazing" and any undue attention being given to the elements.



## **International ecumenical thanksgiving service celebrating St Brigid 1500**

**On Thursday 1 February 2024, churches across Kildare and beyond will come together to participate in a special ecumenical service at 11am in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare entitled, 'Celebrating St Brigid. Brigid 1500: A Service of Thanksgiving'.**

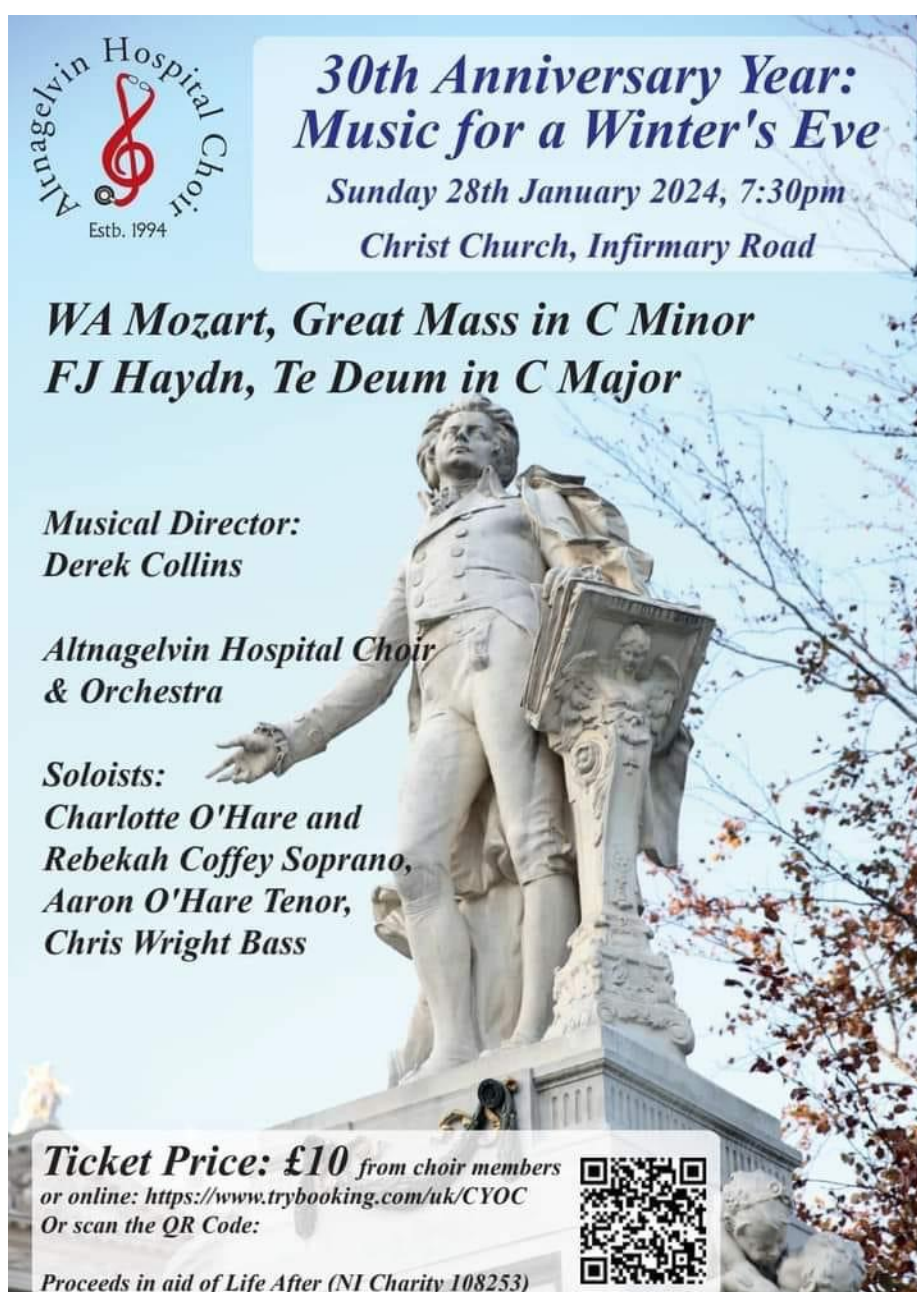
This service, dedicated to commemorating the feast day of St Brigid and the 1500th anniversary of her death, promises an uplifting experience through music, prayer, and worship.



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The co-leaders of this thanksgiving service are the Most Rev Denis Nulty, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, and the Most Rev Patricia Storey, Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath and Kildare. The Reverend Canon Dr Alison Joyce, Rector of St Bride's Church, Fleet Street in the heart of London, will deliver the sermon.

At the end of the service, a Pause for Peace will be observed in the cathedral at 12 noon, aligning with a broader initiative whereby the people of Kildare are



**Altnagelvin Hospital Choir**  
Estb. 1994

**30th Anniversary Year:  
Music for a Winter's Eve**

*Sunday 28th January 2024, 7:30pm*  
*Christ Church, Infirmary Road*

**WA Mozart, Great Mass in C Minor**  
**FJ Haydn, Te Deum in C Major**

**Musical Director:**  
**Derek Collins**

**Altnagelvin Hospital Choir  
& Orchestra**

**Soloists:**  
**Charlotte O'Hare and  
Rebekah Coffey Soprano,  
Aaron O'Hare Tenor,  
Chris Wright Bass**

**Ticket Price: £10** from choir members  
or online: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/CYOC>  
Or scan the QR Code:

Proceeds in aid of Life After (NI Charity 108253)

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extending a global invitation, urging individuals worldwide to pause for a minute's silence at midday (local time) on St Brigid's Day.

Livestreaming of the service will also be available worldwide. The service will take place in St Brigid's Cathedral which marks the ancient hilltop site where she founded her double monastery, for men and for women, in the year 480 AD.

Commenting on the service, Bishop Pat Storey said: "We are delighted to be a part of the Brigid 1500 celebrations which highlight the Christian heritage and living faith of many in this land. We are partners in the gospel alongside every believer as we remember the wonderful legacy of Brigid."

Bishop Denis Nulty added: "Celebrating anniversaries helps to ground us and root us in the reality of the present day.

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**Annual  
Memorial Service**  
and unveiling of the Eternal Flame,  
used to guide seafarers home safely.

**Saturday 13th January  
at 7.30pm**

**The Old Generator House  
Newcastle Harbour**

Join us as we pay respect to the lives  
of the many men, women and children  
who have lost their lives at sea.

Attendees are invited to lay a  
wreath in memory of their  
loved ones lost at sea.



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The 1500th anniversary of the death of St Brigid is one such anniversary. I am so looking forward to gathering with Bishop Pat and the people of Kildare in the Cathedral on February 1st as we celebrate and give thanks for the witness of Brigid and the faith she brought.”



## **Bishop William Lee - a tribute by Archbishop Eamon Martin**

**Archbishop Eamon writes - I was very sad to learn of the death yesterday of Bishop William Lee.**

As a priest of the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly, and later as Bishop of the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, Bishop Lee devoted his whole life to the service of the Gospel and to the mission of the Church.

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In my role as President of the Irish Bishops Conference I wish to acknowledge in particular Bishop Lee's immense contribution to the life and work of the Conference over twenty years, from 1993 until his early retirement due to ill health in 2013. During that time he served on the Bishops' Commission for Clergy, Seminaries and Vocations, as well as on the Commission for the Laity. Bishop Lee also held the post of President of Accord, the Catholic Marriage Care Service. His calm and faithful presence as Episcopal Secretary to the Conference for fifteen years was especially valued and appreciated by his brother bishops. I experienced this at a personal level from the time of my own appointment as Executive Secretary in the autumn of 2008.

Bishop Lee took a particular interest in matters related to the formation of priests, reflecting his long involvement with seminary life. At the same time he had a strong appreciation of the vocation of marriage and, in his contributions to discussions within the Conference, he was anxious to ensure that preparation and support for marriage and the family was central in the pastoral life of the Church. His interventions at the Commission for Planning, Resources and Communications were typically wise and balanced.

On behalf of the Bishops' Conference, I wish to express my condolences to Bishop Lee's family, to Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan of Waterford & Lismore, to the priests, religious and faithful of the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly and of the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, and to all who knew and loved him. I also wish to express appreciation for all those who cared for him over many years of struggling with poor health.



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May the light of Heaven shine upon him; may God in his loving mercy look kindly upon him and may he receive the welcome of the good and faithful servant.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís.

• *Archbishop Eamon Martin is Archbishop of Armagh and President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.*

A promotional graphic for a live prayer ministry. The background is a dark, close-up photograph of a woman with her eyes closed and hands clasped in prayer. Overlaid on the image is the text 'Prayer Ministry Live' in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this is a logo consisting of a white cross inside a golden flame, with a white dove above it. Underneath the logo is the text 'DHM Divine Healing MINISTRIES' in a golden, serif font. At the bottom of the graphic, the text '7.30pm Monday on FaceBook & YouTube' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, the website address 'www.divinehealingministries.org' is displayed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

**Prayer Ministry Live**

**DHM**  
Divine Healing  
MINISTRIES

**7.30pm Monday on  
FaceBook & YouTube**

[www.divinehealingministries.org](http://www.divinehealingministries.org)

# Church News Ireland

## In the media

### **Chris Heaton-Harris letter challenges Dublin on its legacy prosecutions record - News Letter**

**The UK government has challenged Ireland to set out its own record on tackling legacy issues, as it formally registered its regret at Dublin's decision to take legal action against its Troubles legislation.**

Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris has written to Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheal Martin, questioning the move by Ireland's government to challenge the UK's contentious legacy laws in the European Court of Human Rights.

The British Ambassador to Ireland Paul Johnston issued the letter on Sunday evening.

In it, Mr Heaton-Harris again challenges Mr Martin to list the number of prosecutions mounted in the Irish state since 1998 related to Troubles incidents.

Aspects of the recently passed UK laws include a limited form of immunity from prosecution for Troubles-related offences for those who co-operate with the new Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR).



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The Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 will also halt future civil cases and legacy inquests.

The UK government's laws are opposed by many victims' groups in Northern Ireland and all the main Stormont parties.

Announcing the interstate case in December, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said his administration was left with "no option" but to legally challenge the UK government over the legacy act.

He said the "strong" legal advice was that the UK legacy act breached the UN Convention on Human Rights.



**Healing Service**  
*"Today is the Day of your Miracle"*

**7.30pm Tuesday 30th January**  
**St. Finnian's Parish Church**  
**Cregagh Park**  
**Belfast**

**Br David Jardine**

**Prayer Ministry and Anointing with Oil**

DHM

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Tánaiste Mr Martin said they were taking the case reluctantly after having spent time trying to change the UK government's mind.

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) confirmed to the PA news agency that a letter had been issued formally registering "profound regret" at the interstate case.

"The Secretary of State, in his letter, repeats his call for the Irish government to clarify the number of criminal prosecutions brought in Ireland since 1998 relating to Troubles-related cases, and presses the Irish government more widely to answer questions regarding its own record on tackling legacy issues in its own jurisdiction," the NIO said in a statement.

The letter criticises the timing of the Irish decision, describing it as a "delicate time" in Northern Ireland amid the efforts to restore power-sharing at Stormont.

The NIO added: "The decision also comes before the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery, led by Sir Declan Morgan as chief commissioner, is fully established and able to demonstrate its ability to discharge the UK's international obligations.

"The UK government reasserts its particular disappointment that the Irish government has taken this course of action without, to date, any engagement with the ICRIIR to understand better how it intends to implement the legislation and deliver for victims and survivors."



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# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Belfast Tradfest

# ANÚNA

THE ORIGINAL VOICES OF RIVERDANCE

BELFAST CATHEDRAL  
FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024

TICKETS AT [BELFASTTRADFEST.COM](http://BELFASTTRADFEST.COM)

Part of St Patrick's Day celebrations, supported by Belfast City Council

## St Patrick's weekend concert by Anuna

**Tickets are now available for the St Patrick's Weekend Concert by ANÚNA at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.**

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Visit <https://www.belfasttraditionalmusic.com/st-patricks-weekend/anuna> . Tickets £22.50  
Doors open from 7.00pm.

ANÚNA is a vocal ensemble formed in Ireland in 1987 by Irish composer Michael McGlynn. The group has recorded 18 albums and achieved a high level of international success, including a significant role in Riverdance from 1994 to 1996. Now considered, Ireland's national choir, under the musical guidance of McGlynn, ANÚNA feature constructions of medieval song from Ireland and traditional arrangements as showcased in their most recent album Otherworld, a startlingly beautiful record that promises much for the future of the group.

Taking place in the hauntingly beautiful setting of Belfast Cathedral, this will be an experience like no other, leaving you awestruck by the sights and sounds of this incredible vocal spectacle.

Age: 8+, U16s must be accompanied by an adult.

## **Galway SVP needs new volunteers**

**The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) will hold an open meeting in the Menlo Park Hotel, Galway, at 7.30pm on the 16th January 2024 for people interested in joining the Society.**

Volunteer with SVP and become part of the largest and oldest voluntary charitable organisation in Ireland. Offering a





## **GALWAY SVP NEEDS NEW MEMBERS TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY IN THE FUTURE.**

**The Society will hold an open meeting in the Menlo Park Hotel at 7.30pm on the 16th January 2024 for people interested in joining the Society.**

**More Information  
(091) 563 233 / [www.svp.ie/volunteer](http://www.svp.ie/volunteer)**

little help at the right time can give people hope for the future. Sharing your time and skills can change lives forever.

All are welcome.

More Information: (091) 563 233 or to express your interest in volunteering visit [www.svp.ie/volunteer](http://www.svp.ie/volunteer)

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## Down & Dromore Parish Readers' Training Course

**Parish Readers are people of all ages and from all walks of life who have a calling to assist in leading public worship. The next four-week training course begins on Wednesday 23 January 2024 in St Ignatius, Carryduff.**

The role usually involves the reading of liturgy, bible readings, prayers and assisting at Holy Communion. Parish Readers may assist in any or all of the ways outlined above and on a regular or occasional basis depending on how they are needed by the Rector. While the role is normally restricted to involvement in public worship it is significant in its support for clergy leading the service.

Parish Readers should undergo a short training course of 4 weeks before being approved to exercise this ministry. They must also have the support of their Rector before applying.

The approval granted for a Reader will normally last for 3 years and cease on the appointment of a new Rector.



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The course covers the following topics:

23 January: The Daily Office and Service of the Word

30 January: Key factors in leading worship and leading intercessions

6 February: Prayer Book Overview – The Collects, calendar and lectionary

13 February Prayer Book Overview – Other useful services and additional resources

There is no cost for the course.

Register via Eventbrite here -

[https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2024/01/parish-readers-training-course?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=facebook](https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2024/01/parish-readers-training-course?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook)

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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