

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Mobile Methodist hospitality



Image of the day

Mobile Methodist hospitality

Spotted last week - a small cottage on wheels which can be deployed throughout Ireland giving the church a presence in a variety of ways.

Photographs here are from the Orange Order parade in Donegal. Tea and conversation were available. Pastoral listening on site.

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People and places

Streetreach Debrief on a wonderful Spirit led day



The Streetreach team and the Bishop of Connor, Rt Rev George Davison pictured in Dunseverick Parish Church.

A great evening debrief took place in Dunseverick as Bishop George joined Streetreach participants for their time of sharing stories and calling out what God had done during their second day at Streetreach.

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To end this time together, Bishop George read from Philemon and shared an encouragement to the team to never underestimate how God can use them, even in the little things.

Streetreach is an annual initiative organised by Connor Diocesan Youth Council. This year's Streetreach involved Ballintoy, Dunseverick, Ballyrashane, Killdollahagh and Coleraine parishes.

Two Irish Bishops to attend Universal Synodal Assembly in Rome



Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick
and Bishop Alan McGuckian of Raphoe



The Irish Catholic Bishops have welcomed the publication of the Bulletin from the Holy See detailing

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the full list of participants attending the first session of the Universal Synod in Rome this October.

Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Raphoe are the two bishops who will be travelling from Ireland to take part in the assembly.

Welcoming the announcement, Bishop Leahy said, “I very much look forward to the gathering in October. I believe the positive engagement and valuable inputs on the part of many in Ireland in the Synodal pathway to date have helped to prepare me. I am thinking of the special atmosphere and spiritual conversations we experienced, for example, at the Athlone gathering in June 2022.

“I pray that the October assembly will be a time of going deeper still, in listening together with participants from across the world to what the Spirit is saying to the Church at this time, so often described by Pope Francis as an era of transformation”.

Bishop McGuckian SJ said, “I am excited to be a part of an authentic discernment of the Holy Spirit at work in the People of God, as we listen together to the Scriptures and the Church’s tradition. We ask for the prayers of all the Faithful for inspiration for all of us who will gather in Rome that this Synod will bring us all closer to Christ and his Saving Love in the world.”

Congratulations to Revd Prof. Eamonn Conway who has been appointed by Pope Francis as one of the experts assisting the forthcoming Synod gathering in Rome.

News reports

Debate as siblings, not as opponents, Archbishop of York urges Synod



The Archbishop of York addresses the Synod on Friday afternoon

The General Synod of the Church of England must find a way to walk together as brothers and sisters not opponents, even when it tackles challenging topics such as safeguarding or sexuality, the Archbishop of York has said.

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Opening the session at the University of York on Friday afternoon, Archbishop Cottrell began his presidential address with a long quotation from Pope Francis: a plea for solidarity and care for “the needs of the brothers and sisters who orbit around us”.

He urged Synod members to reconsider the Lord’s Prayer, and the revolutionary power of saying “Our Father” . . . a defiant rebuke to all who would reduce us to isolation from each other and from God”. The prayer also pointed to the fundamental belonging that all Christians shares, he said. This had been brought home powerfully to Archbishop Cottrell when he prayed alongside Pope Francis in Rome earlier this year.



Derry pilgrims at Lourdes

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The Church was already united under God, the Archbishop said, and it was the task of Christians to exhibit this unity. And he quoted William Temple: “We fail to be scandalised, as I believe God is scandalised”, by our “parallel ecclesial lives”. Anglicans, like many others, had got too used to disunity, seeing it as normal rather than a disgraceful affront to Christ.

“Moreover, we must always go the extra mile of finding those ways of widening the tent of our inclusion, but without letting anyone be lost,” he said. “Disagreeing well really does matter.”

It was time for a fresh drive for ecumenism, with new energy



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and imagination, he said. The fractious Anglican Communion, perhaps paradoxically, had something to offer the world on how to bear together despite disagreements: a “federation of Churches in communion but not under a single rule”, allowing Christians to walk together flexibly without losing conscientiously held differences.

The way that the Synod conducted its difficult conversation in the coming days was as important as what the conclusions were, Archbishop Cottrell suggested. Synod embers were not talking to strangers or opponents but brothers and sisters, even as they critiqued and challenged one another.



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He then apologised to the Synod for appearing to dismiss a question posed to him at the previous meeting in February. “I will carry on searching myself, seeking a path of love and grace,” he concluded. “I dare to ask this of all of us.”

Church of England disinvests with 11 oil majors

After years of failed engagement with 11 oil majors, the Church of England concludes that "none are aligned with the goals of the Paris climate agreement" and divests its assets.

The decision follows a vote by the General Synod, the church's parliament, in 2018 to sell out of fossil fuel companies that were failing to take sufficient action to tackle climate change by 2023.

The church's £10.3bn endowment fund and its £3.2bn pension scheme have spent the years since urging big fossil fuel companies to overhaul their businesses in response to climate change, or risk divestment. It said it had already excluded 20 oil and gas companies from its investment portfolio in 2021.

The church said it had taken the decision to sell down its holdings in the remaining 11 oil and gas companies by the end of the year “after concluding that none are aligned with the goals of the Paris climate agreement, as assessed by the Transition Pathway Initiative”.

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Under the Paris accord, countries agreed to limit global temperature rises to well below 2C and ideally 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. The TPI is a project set up by the Anglican Church, the Environment Agency Pension Fund and several other big asset managers to identify companies that pose the biggest climate change risk.

“We have long urged companies to take climate change seriously, and specifically to align with the goals of the Paris climate agreement,” said Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and chair of the Church Commissioners for England, which manages the endowment fund.

“Some progress has been made, but not nearly enough,” said Welby, who worked as a finance executive in the oil industry for 11 years before he was ordained. “The church



Divine Healing Ministries - Peace procession to St Patrick's Ballymaccarret last Saturday

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will follow not just the science, but our faith — both of which call us to work for climate justice,” he added.

The church said it would also exclude all remaining smaller companies involved in oil and gas exploration, production and refining by the end of the year.

Although a small investor — its oil and gas holdings account for less than 1 per cent of the endowment fund, while the pension pot has about £7mn invested — the church has played an outsized role in shareholder discussions with oil companies over climate change.

The endowment fund has filed resolutions at Exxon and led discussions at the US oil major on behalf of shareholders that form the Climate Action 100+ initiative, which is made up of 700 investors with \$68tn in assets under management.



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The pension fund has separately led discussions with Shell on behalf of the same initiative.

Until now the Church of England had argued that it could have more impact by retaining its shares and pushing management teams to decarbonise, a belief echoed by many big investors.

John Ball, chief executive of the Church of England Pensions Board, said: “Recent reversals of previous commitments, most notably by BP and Shell, have undermined confidence in the sector’s ability to transition.”

Shell told investors this month it would keep growing its giant gas business while maintaining oil production at current levels until 2030. In February, BP pared back its



Divine Healing Ministries - Service in St Patrick's Ballymacarret last Saturday

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plans to cut oil and gas production this decade from a 40 per cent reduction to 25 per cent based on 2019 levels.

Shell said the church's decision was "disappointing, but not surprising". It added: "Our commitment to becoming a net zero emissions energy business by 2050 remains as strong as it ever was, and we firmly believe our strategy is aligned with the more ambitious goal of the Paris climate agreement."

Exxon highlighted its plan to cut emissions from its operations — known in the industry as Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions — to net zero by 2050, describing the aims as part of its "comprehensive approach to create emission-reduction road maps for our major operated assets".

In the media

How presenter's salary top-up sparked crisis at Ireland's BBC

Judge Anthony Halpin was about to begin processing the prosecutions of 159 people who had failed to pay their licence fee when he stopped to get something off his chest, James Crisp writes in the Daily Telegraph.

In a stunning outburst at Dublin's District Court on Friday, he lashed out at "those freeloaders in RTÉ," Ireland's state broadcaster, urging stars and executives who received "unconscionable sums of money" to "do the right thing".

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Ryan Tubridy was acclaimed for taking a 15 per cent pay cut during hard times before the details of his true salary emerged Ryan Tubridy was acclaimed for taking a 15 per cent pay cut during hard times before the details of his true salary emerged

RTÉ, which like the BBC is funded partly by a licence fee, has been in crisis over secret payments to its presenters and its extravagant spending.

The judge was furious that those before the court “who are crippled with the cost of living, have to swallow this unpalatable pill of the licence fee when they see that such a source of income is squandered and abused”.

The furore erupted after it emerged RTÉ had given its highest paid presenter, Ryan Tubridy, secret top-ups on his



Divine Healing Ministries - Service in St Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymacarret last Saturday

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salary worth £294,300. The scandal has ballooned to engulf the broadcaster in revelations over perks and payments.

Humiliation has been swift, merciless and very public. When the broadcaster declared that Mr Tubridy, earned £376,250 in 2021, no one could have foreseen the eventual consequences

**Sometimes you need to look at things
from a different perspective.**



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The then-presenter of The Late Late Late Show, an Irish institution, made about £22,200 less than the previous year after taking a 15 per cent pay cut.

Cash-strapped RTÉ was in the midst of painful cuts, which hit its non-celebrity staff particularly hard, and “Tubs” was given credit for his sacrifice.

That was until June 22 this year when RTÉ admitted it had paid the TV and radio star £295,000 more than was made public between 2017 and 2022 as part of a salary top-up deal.

A commercial sponsor was meant to foot the bill but did not renew its contract, leaving RTÉ paying the amount. At least some of the payments were made via a barter account, which are used to trade advertising space for goods and services rather than cash.

Dee Forbes, RTÉ’s director general, was suspended and then resigned with immediate effect. Meanwhile RTÉ stars announced that their salaries were correct and its journalists protested outside its offices.

The government announced a “root and branch” review. With the Irish media at fever pitch, there were grim predictions that this would make it politically impossible for RTÉ to ask for more money for the foreseeable future.

One day after resigning, Ms Forbes announced she would not go before the Oireachtas, the Irish parliament, for health reasons. Siún Ní Raghallaigh, the chairman of RTÉ’s board,

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told MPs the scandal was “undoubtedly the darkest episode” in the broadcaster’s history.

RTÉ was then accused of running a “slush fund”, as it was revealed that £10,200 was spent on Bruce Springsteen tickets and £5,400 on 50 tickets to see Phil Collins and Robbie Williams. More red faces followed when it was admitted that RTÉ had spent £4,270 on flip flops for a summer party.

There was gasps of disbelief in Committee Room One of Leinster House, when Adrian Lynch, the interim deputy director general, said one RTÉ star had a free “loan” of a Renault car for five years. Asked when the car was returned, Mr Lynch replied: “Yesterday.”

Marty Morrissey, a much-loved RTÉ sports presenter, came forward to admit he was the driver in question and begged for forgiveness on Friday.

Such has been the fallout that Mr Tubridy has been likened to the spark that set off a wildfire or even the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, whose assassination triggered the First World War.

Through it all, the man who presented Ireland’s biggest TV show for 14 years has been silent. The morning radio show host was taken off air when the scandal broke and has not broadcast since but Mr Tubridy, and his now controversial agent, are set to give evidence on Tuesday in a blockbuster Oireachtas hearing that will draw an audience as big as any of “Tubs’ hit shows. *Courtesy The Daily Telegraph*

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

A colorful poster for a Lunchtime Choir Recital. The top section is orange with the Newton Prep logo in a teal banner. The title 'Lunchtime Choir Recital' is written in a white cursive font. Below the title, text describes the event: 'Join the Newton Prep School Training Choir for a 30-minute recital of choral music with works by Dove, Stanford, Parry and Wiseman'. The date and time are 'Monday 10th July, 1.00 pm' and the location is 'St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin'. A QR code is provided for listening to a recent performance. The bottom section is pink with musical notes and symbols. Contact information is at the very bottom.

**Newton
PREP**

*Lunchtime
Choir Recital*

Join the Newton Prep School Training Choir
for a 30-minute recital of choral music with
works by Dove, Stanford, Parry and Wiseman

Monday 10th July, 1.00 pm
St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

St Patrick's Close, D08 H6X3
Admission to the recital is included in the usual Cathedral entry fee

Scan here to listen to
a recent performance
by our pupils

newtonprepschool.co.uk | 149 Battersea Park Road, London, SW8 4BX | +44 (0) 20 7720 4091

Lunchtime Choir recital in St Patrick's today

The team at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, are super excited to meet the kids from Newton Prep School Training Choir today Monday 10th July.

Their Lunchtime Recital will take place at 1pm in the Cathedral nave, all visitors to the Cathedral are most welcome to hear them sing.



**BELFAST
CATHEDRAL**
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

Wednesday 19 July at 12.30pm

Eastern Pennsylvania Choral Society

Mark P. Thomas, Director

Presents

'An American Celebration of Music'

**A pot pourri of songs for all tastes
Featuring contemporary choral works,
American spirituals, Gospel songs,
and Americana**

**Free admission
everyone welcome**

**Retiring collection
to cathedral funds**

Info: 01306 741000



Choir of St. Bride's Anglican Church, Ontario, in Monkstown Parish Church

Saturday 22nd July at 7.30pm in Monkstown Parish Church, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, the choir of St. Bride's Anglican Church, Ontario, Canada will be performing a concert of varied music, accompanied by Ian Sadler on the organ. Admission is Euro 15 payable at the door. Proceeds to the Monkstown Schoolhouse Restoration Fund. All welcome!

Houston Cathedral Choir to sing Choral Evensong in Belfast

At 5.30pm on Wednesday 26th July, 2023, the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, Texas will sing Choral Evensong at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

The music for this Evensong will include the Preces and Responses by Bernard Rose, and with an emphasis on American composers, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis will be "An Evening Service in A" by Stephen Caracciolo, and the Anthem, "Pilgrim's Hymns" by Stephen Paulus.

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