

Church News Ireland



Image of the day - Fellowship in Jerusalem

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Image of the day

Fellowship in Jerusalem



The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hosam Naoum, installed the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Anthony Poggo, as an honorary Canon of Saint George's Cathedral in Jerusalem. (Photo above)

The conferring of the honorary Canonry took place on July 5 during a service of Evening Prayer in the Cathedral.

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This was Bishop Anthony's second visit to Jerusalem. He had intended to undertake studies at Saint George's College, in the cathedral grounds, in the 1990s, but his travel documents at the time did not allow travel to Israel.

Following South Sudan's independence, Bishop Anthony was able to visit the Holy Land for three weeks in 2018, with a group of ordinands and clergy staying at Saint George's College. It was a wonderful opportunity to visit many parts of this country and visit biblical and historic sites," Bishop Anthony said. "After this visit, reading the Bible has not been the same."

Bishop Anthony is now a trustee of Saint George's College. He said: "I hope to bring some of my experiences to this role and use my contacts across the communion to encourage colleges and provinces to see St George's College as an Anglican Communion family institution."

In addition to his role as Archbishop of Jerusalem, Archbishop Hosam is also the Primate of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and Vice Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council. He said: "following historical tradition, we are pleased to install Bishop Anthony Poggo as an Honorary Canon of Saint George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, in the Seat of the Anglican Communion in recognition of his devoted service to Christ in the office of Secretary General. We wish him all of God's blessings as he ministers throughout the worldwide Communion."

The Reverend Philip McKinley of Meath & Kildare and Bishop Anthony also met in Jerusalem. "Such a joy to spend

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the morning here in Jerusalem with Bishop Anthony Poggo, former Bishop of Diocese of Kajo-Keji, South Sudan and now Secretary General of Anglican Communion Affairs”, Philip commented (Page 1 photo)

People and places

Broughshane member appointed All Ireland President of Christian Endeavour

Ken McGall, an elder in 2nd Broughshane Presbyterian Church, will be installed at the 108th Irish National CE Convention to be held on September 23.

Ken has been in CE from the age of 17 and has held various posts at society, local Union and Irish Union levels; at present he is a member of Irish Christian Endeavour Executive. He is a member of the Ballymena and Coleraine Christian Endeavour Union.

Rugby surprise for C of I Canon on his 100th birthday

Happy 100th birthday to Canon Noble Hamilton, former rector of Seapatrick, Banbridge

A former TCD rugby first XV player, and a life long rugby fan, Canon Hamilton has been an Ulster Rugby Season Ticket Holder for as long as he can remember.

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This week on his 100th birthday, he received a special visit from John Cooney, the Ulster and Ireland player who presented him with a gift from Ulster Rugby marking the occasion.

Next Director of the Royal College of Music



James Williams has been appointed as the next Director of the Royal College of Music.

James is currently the Managing Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

He will join RCM in September 2024 as the 11th Director of the RCM.

Read the full announcement: <https://bit.ly/44b2eS7>

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TRC Excellence in religious education award for Stranmillis University College student



Excellence in religious education is recognised by the TRC Award which is presented each year to a Stranmillis University College student at who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to creativity and innovation in this subject area.

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This year's recipient was B.Ed. Primary Education graduate Jessica Thompson, who was presented with the award at the College's 2023 Graduation Celebration on Friday, 30th June. Geoffrey Cherry, Principal of Pond Park Primary School in Lisburn and a former Stranmillis student, was the guest speaker at the celebration and made the presentation.

Congratulations to Jessica and to all teachers who are starting out on what should be a rewarding career. The TRC represents the three churches which transferred their schools to the government of Northern Ireland's Department of Education.



Summer music at St Columba's Knock - Dr Joe McKee, director of music, and some members of the chorale

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St Nicholas' Church in Carrickfergus calls for community to back restoration efforts

St Nicholas' Church in Carrickfergus is seeking support for a new campaign to secure the future of the historic building.

The church is set to launch Be In'spire'd, an innovative fundraising initiative which aims to carry out vital restoration work to the church tower and buildings.

As part of the campaign, this month St Nicholas' are on a

mission to encourage individuals, local



Summer music at St Columba's Knock

The Rector, Canon John Auchmuty with Mrs Rosemary McCartney and Dr Joe McKee

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businesses and other interested groups to back the 'Buy A Brick' summer challenge.

The historic building with its iconic spire is one of the most prominent landmarks in the Carrickfergus area.

Located at Market Place in the heart of the town, St Nicholas' Church of Ireland is steeped in history, dating back over 800 years to the 12th Century.

Built around 1180, the church is full of intriguing features



Summer music at St Columba's Knock - Mrs Rosemary McCartney with her parents Canon and Mrs Patterson

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both old and new, and offers guided tours for those who are interested in learning more about its rich history.

It is a key part of the town's heritage, and has been the venue for a large number of community events over the years.

They include the civic carol service at Christmas to hosting a commemoration event in memory of Her Majesty the Queen in September 2022.

St Nicholas' also boasts an active church community, and supports many local people right across the Mid and East Antrim borough and beyond.

However, repair work is urgently required to shore up the building for future generations.

Rector, Christopher St John said, "We recently carried out a condition survey which indicated that there are vital areas of work that need to be addressed.

"The highest priority work includes pointing and stone repairs to the church tower and baptistry, which is going to be a very costly exercise.

"Given the importance of this beautiful historical asset which provides such a real sense of community and character to the town, we thought it was fitting to reach out to inspire the wider community of Carrickfergus to get behind this campaign."

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It is estimated that the first phase of the works will cost in the region of £35-50k.

The total cost will depend on further assessment and condition reports following the completion of the first phase.

The 'Buy a Brick' summer challenge invites members of the local community to buy one or more bricks for a donation of just £10 each.

"The good news is, they are virtual bricks, so no need to worry about deliveries," said the organisers of the campaign.

"Donors will be rewarded with the knowledge that they are helping to protect one of the town's finest buildings to leave a lasting positive legacy for the next generation."

The Rector added: "We are very grateful to the generosity of our parishioners who have already stepped up to help raise crucial funds and we are planning to host several public events to also support the challenge."

If you are interested in making a donation to the project, email treasurer@saintnicholas.org.uk or phone the church office 028 93360061 for details of how to contribute. Report by Helena McManus in Northern Ireland World 04/07/2023.

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In the media



Michael McNamara: Debate on our neutrality is being framed solely by the agenda of the coalition

Irish Independent

To be clear, seeking to disrupt and prevent debate is not good. Neither is hypocrisy. The Tánaiste Micheál Martin's charge against those seeking to disrupt the first government forum on neutrality — that “the most undemocratic thing to do is to try and shut down debate and that’s what you’re trying to do” and that they wanted “debate on your terms and on nobody else’s” — hit the mark.

Pay for access site -

<https://www.independent.ie/opinion/comment/michael-mcnamara-debate-on-our-neutrality-is-being-framed-solely-by-the-agenda-of-the-coalition/a1706945238.html>



Ian Paisley: Dublin should invest in its own defence to protect its sovereignty, not rely on the UK and the British taxpayer

Belfast News Letter

Every time a Russian military aircraft comes close to or breaches Irish air space, the call goes out to the Royal Air Force to rush to the aid of its neighbour.

Countless sorties are flown by the RAF – they won't tell us how many – or the cost to the British taxpayer. The Ministry of Defence won't even tell us what, if anything, the Republic of Ireland pays His Majesty's Government for providing the much-needed security blanket.

Decades of chronic under-investment in the Irish Defence Forces means the country doesn't have one fighter jet to its name. In fact, an Irish government-appointed Commission

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on the Defence Forces said the Republic “has no air defence capability of any significance”.

[<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/columnists/ian-paisley-dublin-should-invest-in-its-own-defence-to-protect-its-sovereignty-not-rely-on-the-uk-and-the-british-taxpayer-4207536>]

Charging extra fee for oversized coffins would ‘stigmatise the deceased’, NI council told

Belfast Telegraph

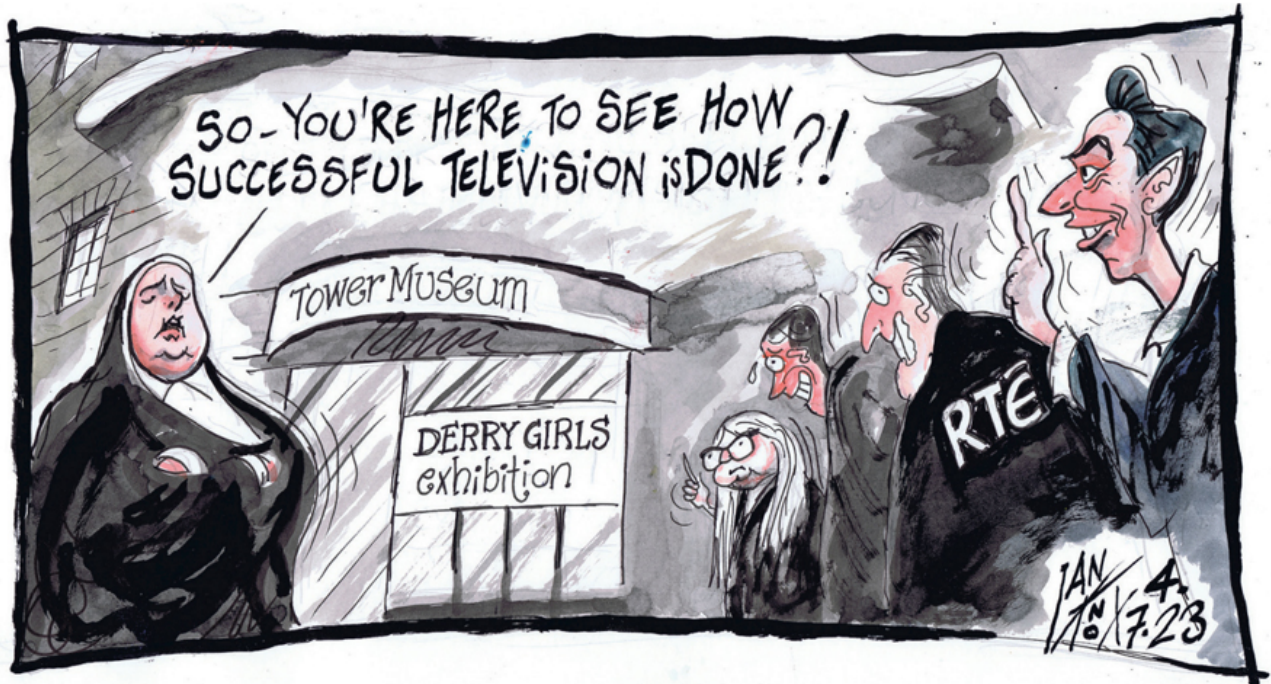
The National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) has told a Northern Ireland council that an additional charge for overweight coffins would “stigmatise” the deceased.

The NAFD was responding to a public consultation carried out by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for a review of cemetery rules and regulations.

The findings were presented to the council’s Environment and Economy Committee at a recent meeting.

Some 300 local clergy, funeral directors and stonemasons have already given their views ahead of the four-week public consultation.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/charging-extra-fee-for-oversized-coffins-would-stigmatise-the-deceased-ni-council-told/a601286043.html>



Ian Knox in The Irish News

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Flourishing families webinar from National Parenting

Join this online 'Event for Everyone' on 12 July from 12 to 1pm. <https://cte.org.uk/flourishing-families-npi-webinar/>

How to plan for major church fundraising appeal

Online training Mon 31st July
<https://churchgrants.co.uk/training>

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Meet Emma from the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago and the WCC Central Committee

Get ready to be inspired! Meet Emma Rahman from the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, who shared her views and perspectives as a central committee steward during WCC Central Committee 2023 in Geneva. Watch all videos here <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=>

Archbishop Welby interviews actor

“Faith had the power and the beauty and the comfort of a fairy tale to me.”

At 12, Hollywood actor Gabriel Byrne began training to be a priest but all that changed.

Listen to the latest Archbishop Interviews with him on BBC Radio 4 <https://bbc.in/3NarElo>

Keith & Kristyn Getty - The Lord Almighty Reigns

[<https://youtu.be/2TdEZXPuKOo>]

Listen now: <https://va.lnk.to/thelordalmightyreigns>

Subscribe to Keith & Kristyn Getty on YouTube:
<https://getty.pub/subscribe>

Stream this song and others on their official Spotify channel:
<https://bit.ly/kkgprofile>

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Open University in N Ireland deadline

Looking to start studying this October? The deadline to register for OU courses is 7 September.

Make sure you don't miss out by starting your application today: <https://ow.ly/4zOr50P0618>

Perspective

Biden's Anglophobia is becoming a threat to the West

The president would apparently rather see an EU Nato power grab than let a Briton run the alliance, Con Coughlin writes in the Daily Telegraph

Joe Biden, the US president, makes little effort to conceal his visceral animosity towards the UK, as was evident from his insulting behaviour in Ireland when marking the anniversary of the Good Friday Accords and his no-show at the Coronation. The idea, though, that he is prepared to block Ben Wallace's perfectly respectable bid to become Nato's next secretary-general in favour of appointing Ursula von der Leyen, the underwhelming president of the European Commission, takes his Anglophobia to an entirely new level, one where he seems intent on committing a grievous act of self-harm.

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Von der Leyen has hardly covered herself in glory during her Brussels stint. Her incompetence was brutally exposed in her handling of the pandemic in 2020 when, after reportedly taking “personal charge” of the EU’s response, she oversaw the implementation of a vaccination programme that lagged well behind much of the rest of the world. Similarly, her inability to provide strong and effective leadership has been evident in her response to the Ukraine conflict, where she has failed to give a precise timetable for Kyiv’s long-term ambitions to join the European Union.

Her failings in Brussels, though, are modest by comparison with her record as Germany’s defence minister between 2013-19. It was during this period, when Angela Merkel was chancellor, that Berlin almost seemed to take pride in the fact that it consistently failed to meet the minimum Nato spending requirement of 2 per cent of GDP.

With Germany’s close energy and trade ties with Moscow, Merkel and Von der Leyen apparently convinced themselves that Vladimir Putin posed no serious threat to European security, so there was no need to waste money on expensive military kit.

This resulted in the Bundeswehr becoming the laughing stock of Nato. When on exercise, its soldiers had to resort to using their own mobile phones because the military communications kit lacked proper encryption. The army’s standard-issue assault rifles were unable to shoot straight in high temperatures and, at one point, equipment shortages became so acute that soldiers were forced to conduct military exercises with broomsticks instead of guns.

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Her track record at the German defence ministry makes Von der Leyen's subsequent appointment as Brussels supremo all the more remarkable, even though it later emerged she got the job because the European Council simply wanted a weak commission leader who would be amenable to its demands.

Making her Nato secretary-general, though, at a time when the alliance is facing the greatest challenge in its 74-year history with the war in Ukraine, would be a promotion too far for someone with such an undistinguished career.

The fact, moreover, that the Biden administration could even contemplate such an inappropriate appointment demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding at the White House of the major challenges Nato faces if it is to preserve Western security.

One of the key pillars that enabled Nato to maintain peace in Europe is the transatlantic alliance, where the US and Europe have worked in tandem to provide an effective military deterrent to any potential aggressor.

Washington's dominant role in the alliance, particularly in the military sphere, has long been resented by European elites who would prefer the EU to develop its own defence capabilities.

For example, Emmanuel Macron, the French president, has made no secret of his desire to create what he calls a "true European Army" to protect its interests.

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Appointing Von der Leyen to run Nato would not only place the West's defence in the hands of a lightweight politician with questionable credentials: it would open the way for Euro-zealots to fulfil their dream of having a defence force focused on defending European interests at the expense of the wider Western alliance.

If the Biden administration was really interested in maintaining the strength and effectiveness of the Western alliance, it would understand that maintaining the distinction between Nato and the EU was paramount.

Yet, such is Biden's antipathy towards Britain, that he seems willing to ignore this important distinction simply because he cannot tolerate the notion of a British defence secretary getting the position.

Fortunately, the prospect of an EU takeover of Nato has been averted for the immediate future, as Nato leaders have agreed to give a one-year extension to Jens Stoltenberg, the former Norwegian prime minister who has done sterling work encouraging member states to display a united front in confronting Russian aggression.

Norway, of course, enjoys Nato membership, but is not a part of the EU, a fact that will have helped Stoltenberg to keep his distance from Brussels' efforts to increase its influence over the alliance.

When choosing the next Nato leader, therefore, alliance leaders should avoid picking a representative of Brussels' ruling elite, and instead look for a candidate from somewhere like Poland or the Baltic states who can be

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guaranteed to safeguard the alliance's independence from an EU power grab.

Published in the Daily Telegraph 06/07/2023

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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