

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Neighbours**

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## Image of the day

### Neighbours

Little 17-months-old Pippa McAuley who likes to check her Granda Jim Kennedy's cattle every day In Glarryford. - Love Ballymena

## People and places

### Introducing the Methodist Church's President and Lay Leader Designates for 2024

**The Methodist Church in Ireland has announced that for 2024-25, the President designate is Rev Dr John Alderdice, and the Lay Leader Designate for 2024-26, Ms. Elaine Barnett.**

The Installation of the new President and Lay Leader will take place at Conference in 2024 (5th - 9th June).

Rev Dr John Alderdice has travelled for twenty-five years. He is currently stationed as Superintendent of the Ballynafeigh Circuit. He has previously served as the Director of Ministry, as Methodist Chaplain to Queen's University Belfast (Church of the Resurrection), and as a Circuit Minister on the Newtownards Circuit (Movilla Abbey and Comber), and on the Tandragee and Richhill Circuit.

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His previous service to the Connexion includes being the Convener of the Faith and Order Committee, Chair of IMYC Executive, Children's Secretary for the Portadown and Down Districts, Youth and Children's Secretary, Down District Home Mission Secretary, Conference Director of Music, Convenor of the Board of Ministry, Edgehill Governors, Convenor of Pastoral Efficiency, member of the Connexional Team, and a member of the Stationing Committee.



John is currently a Trustee of the Methodist Church in Ireland, is Convenor of the Connexional Team and is a governor of Methodist College.

John is also an Ecumenical Canon of Down Cathedral.

### **Ms. Elaine Barnett**

**Elaine is a Local Preacher on the Carrickfergus Circuit, and Society Steward in Whitehead.**



She has served the Connexion in a number of areas, including as all-Ireland YWA President; NE District Home Mission Secretary; Representative to the British Conference; and Convener for the Connexions Steering Group. She was the first lay person to be elected to the Conference Secretariat, serving since 2000, first as Journal Secretary, and currently as Editorial Secretary.

Her desire has always been to see people grow in faith and develop skills to serve God in the local church. This was at the heart of her work in Edgehill Christian Education Centre, where she introduced correspondence courses and District training events, and then for twelve years when she was employed in a lay ministry role in both Woodvale and Craighill Methodist Churches.

For the last five years she chaired the ecumenical Northern Ireland Executive Committee of [Women's] World Day of Prayer, and is now an Appointed Officer of its England,

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Wales and Northern Ireland National Committee. Her work within the charity sector led to her becoming a Member of the Institute of Leadership and Management, and she is a Trustee of Larne [Trussell Trust] Foodbank.



*Canon Daniel Nuzum pictured receiving his civic award from Ann Doherty CEO of Cork City Council and Lord Mayor Councillor Deirdre Forde. Photo: Brian Loughheed*

## **Canon Daniel Nuzum received Lord Mayor of Cork's Civic Award**

The Rev. Canon Daniel Nuzum received a Civic Award from the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Deirdre Forde in

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recognition of his commitment to spiritual and pastoral care and education in perinatal bereavement and palliative care.

Daniel is the Church of Ireland Healthcare Chaplain at Cork University Hospital, Bon Secours Hospital and Marymount University Hospital and Hospice.



## **Bible Society friendship at Methodist Conference**

The General Secretary of the Bible Society Ni, Catherine Hillcox, was delighted to catch up with Rev Leah McKibben

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at The Methodist Church in Ireland's Conference at the weekend.

Leah worked at Bible Society NI as Projects Manager before commencing Ordination Training. She was ordained as a Minister in the Methodist Church in Ireland on Saturday evening and will continue her work in the Omagh and Fintona Circuit.

## Diocesan Family Fun Day at the Ulster American Folk Park



**Around 300 people – from the very youngest to the (ahem) most knowledgeable – took part in Derry & Raphoe’s Diocesan Family Fun Day at the Ulster American Folk Park near Omagh.**



It was a most encouraging turn-out for the organisers – Diocesan Children’s Officer Kirsty McCartney of SEEDS Children’s Ministry, Diocesan Youth Officer Claire Hinchliff from Derry and Raphoe Youth, and the indefatigable members of Derry and Raphoe Mothers’ Union, led by their president, Jacqui Armstrong.





The day began with some group time – including an interactive story, music, and prayer – in the Meeting House. Worship was led by the local Rector, Rev Graham Hare, with The Rector of Urney, Rev Johnny McFarland, supporting him on the guitar.

Bishop Andrew Forster welcomed those present, and thanked Kirsty and Claire and the “wonderful” Mothers’ Union for organising the Fun Day. Bishop Andrew also introduced the two newest members of the Diocese’s clergy cohort: Rev Andrew Neill, who will be ordained to the priesthood in September, and Rev Susan Elliott, who was instituted as Rector of the Inver Group early last month.

After worship, there were street games, stories, songs and a treasure hunt for those who wanted them while others were free to wander off and visit the park’s many attractions.

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The weather for the day was hot but overcast, and there were plenty of rather fetching hats being sported to protect wearers from the sun's UV rays.

## News reports

### Archbishop Dermot Farrell welcomes new Papal Nuncio to Dublin's Pro-Cathedral

**Last Sunday ,11 June, on the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), Ireland's new Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor, attended a liturgical reception at Saint Mary's Pro Cathedral, Dublin, during 11.00am Mass.**



*"I welcome you to Dublin – to the place, and to the Church called into life in this place. We are very glad that you have come to be with us."*

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In attendance were parishioners, clergy, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Provincials and Superiors of Religious Orders as well as representatives of the Association of Papal Orders in Ireland, Knights of Columbanus, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and Order of Malta.

## **Words of Archbishop Dermot Farrell**

Brothers and sisters, dear friends in Christ, it is with joy that we gather here in the Pro-Cathedral this morning on this Feast of the Bread of Life, God's gift to us, the Body and Blood of Christ—Corpus Christi, as we call it in our liturgical tradition. It is a feast in which we give thanks for the closeness of our Lord in the sacrament of the Eucharist, and for his faithfulness to his people whom he has called into life, and into the wonderful adventure of following his Son on the journey through time, the journey to the fullness of life (see John 10:10).

This morning we also celebrate the closeness and the faithfulness of the Holy Father to the Church in Dublin, as we welcome liturgically the new Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor, the Holy Father's representative in Ireland. Archbishop Montemayor, on behalf of the faithful, clergy, religious, and those who live a consecrated life, I welcome you to Dublin — to the place, and to the Church called into life in this place. We are very glad that you have come to be with us.

You know the pastoral and ecclesial landscape in Dublin and across the island of Ireland is being transformed. As reflected in the results of the recent census, the Ireland of today is becoming more diverse, and parts of the island



*Archbishop Montemayor and Archbishop Farrell*

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have — for the first time in our history — a distinctly multicultural feel. Walk a few hundred metres from this Pro-cathedral, and you will encounter a vibrant Asian community, right in the centre of this city. This vibrancy and diversity — both cultural and religious — are to be welcomed.

Here in Dublin, the faith of these new communities brings much life: I have been both moved and heartened by the celebration of the living faith of our sisters and brothers from the Philippines, from Poland, from the lands of Latin America, as well as the faith of our sisters and brothers from the many Orthodox Churches who have found a home in Ireland. This celebration here this morning, in the presence of the Cantores Minores from Helsinki Cathedral, joining our Palestrina Choir in singing the praises of God, also bears witness to ongoing ecumenical exchange, so essential if the Body of Christ is to become all that our Heavenly Father wills us to be. Our Lutheran sisters and brothers are most welcome.


Of course, this cultural and religious diversity brings both challenges and opportunities for the Church in Dublin. Archbishop Montemayor, as one who has worked in the diplomatic service of the Holy See since 1991 — you have been Apostolic Nuncio to places as far flung as Columbia (2018–23), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2015–18) and Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, as well as Apostolic Delegate to Mauritania (2008–15) — you bring a breadth of experience and a knowledge of the universal Church. It is this global Church that Pope Francis, himself a pastor from the Global South, wants to put before us. Coming most recently from Columbia, you are familiar with

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the legacy of civil conflict and the challenges of building peace and reconciliation. In that same spirit you bring with you a reminder of Pope Francis’s call to move beyond being a self-referential Church towards renewal and conversion, towards our mission “to transform society” by embodying Christian values in the world (see Address of Pope Francis to the Members of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, 22 April 2023).

In your mother tongue there is a saying, “Mi casa, tu casa” —my house is your house. Maybe we can say this morning “Nuestra casa, tu casa.” Our house, our Church is your house, your Church. Tá fáilte romhat. You are welcome, truly welcome, among us. May the Lord bless your ministry and your mission, as — in the words of the Letter to the Ephesians — you seek “to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3).

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



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## **A fully online Masters in Christian School Leadership**

A fully online Masters in Christian School Leadership programme begins this September at Marino Institute. Further info contact - Aiveen at [Aiveen.Mullally@mie.ie](mailto:Aiveen.Mullally@mie.ie) .



### **Under-30 Fringe Event**

An informal gathering, including some reflections from under 30s reps on the General Assembly and church.

**Thursday 22 June 2023**

**6–7.15pm**

**Ground Floor Conference Centre, Assembly Buildings,  
Belfast**



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Under 30s reps and all other General Assembly delegates are invited to attend this event at which a buffet tea will be served from 6pm. There will be an opportunity to chat and reflect with others around tables.

From 6.30pm there will be interviews and discussion with some under 30s reps, who will give their reflections on the General Assembly and their current experience of congregational life, after which there will be a response from the Moderator.

This event is FREE, but places are limited and booking in advance is essential [using this simple link](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/under-30-fringe-event-registration-641215481767).

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## Perspective

### Praying with the Pope - Archbishop of York

#### Archbishop Stephen Cottrell's Pause for Thought on BBC Radio 2 this week

Last month I visited Rome for the first time.

I walked up the Spanish Steps, round the Colosseum, into the Pantheon, drank many delicious cappuccinos, ate gelato and shed loads of lovely pasta. And also had an audience with the Pope.



*The Archbishop of York and his wife visited the Pope. Mrs Cottrell is a potter and she presented the Pope with a gift she had cast. Photo next page.*

I wasn't sure what to expect.

Would it all be over in a few minutes?

Would we shake hands, exchange a few pleasantries, and that would be it?



Well, how wrong can you be. I was greeted warmly. He is a very warm human being.

We sat down and chatted. About the scandal of our disunity as Christians; and we laughed about the need for theologians (and bishops!) to catch up with what the Spirit of God is doing in drawing us together. And about the need for all of us to do what we can where we are to make peace, serve the poor, and live sustainably on the Earth.

‘We must walk together, work together, and pray together,’ said the Pope.

And then we did just that! We prayed the prayer that Jesus taught us. The Lord's Prayer. The prayer that begins, 'Our Father.' He in Italian. I think! Me in English. But both of us speaking the language of the heart which is the language of prayer, the longing for God and the longing to build God's kingdom in the earth.

And as I prayed, I was powerfully struck by that opening word. Our. Not 'my father', not 'my God.' Not 'your father' or 'your God.' Ours.

We belong to each other. And when we say this prayer, we defiantly proclaim that belonging.

Despite our divisions, and, despite all the cynical and selfish forces in the world that would drive us apart, we are one humanity, and when we say this prayer, we declare our commitment to each other and to the whole household of God.

Perhaps service sheets in church should carry a health warning. Be careful: this prayer might change you.

Listen on BBC Sounds: <https://bbc.in/3qHRvQ4>

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# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)