

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Seagoe shares with
Mar Thoma Indian Church**

JUNE 27, 2023

Image of the day

Seagoe shares with Mar Thoma Indian Church

Seagoe Parish in Portadown - ‘with our Bishop’s agreement, we were delighted to welcome the above Church to Seagoe on the afternoon of Sunday 26th June 2023.

“The Church will be holding services from time to time on Sunday afternoons when we are not using the building. In addition, it will from time to time be holding events in the Parish Centre. We encourage our parishioners to make the Mar Thoma congregation welcome... We seek God’s blessing on our partnership.”

Mar Thoma Church is one of the ancient Churches in the world. It is traditionally believed that St. Thomas (Mar Thoma in Syriac), the disciple of Jesus Christ visited India in AD 52 and established the Church in the southwestern Indian state of Kerala.

The Church is in full communion with the Anglican Communion, Church of Ireland and England and is a member of the Churches Together in England (CTE), Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and World Council of Churches (WCC).

The Church has members who also currently meet in Cloughfern Parish, Belfast but it is keen to expand to plant

JUNE 27, 2023

this new congregation in Seagoe to minister to the many Indian members who live in this area.

People and places



Billy Adair Memorial Organ Scholarship

The family of the late Billy Adair (1921-2023), has presented an endowment for an Organ Scholarship at Belfast Cathedral in Billy's memory.

The presentation was made following the Eucharist on Sunday morning.

Pictured here alongside the Dean of Belfast and the Master of Music, Gill Adair (Billy's daughter,

and former Alto Lay Clerk of Belfast Cathedral) presented the scholarship on behalf of their family.

JUNE 27, 2023

Billy began his long and prosperous career as an Anglican church musician in Belfast Cathedral, as a chorister under the then Cathedral Organist Captain Brennan, playing his first service at the age of 16, and his final service of Compline aged 96.

“Billy was involved in starting the organist training scheme to give young organists lessons with the best teachers in Northern Ireland, and we are thrilled that once more we as a Cathedral can offer this training to the next generation of church musicians, in his name”



Kilimanjaro climb for Cancer Focus

The parish of Kilwaughter, Cairncastle and Craigyhill said Safari njema (have a great trip) to Simon Hunter as he

JUNE 27, 2023

heads off this week to climb Mt Kilimanjaro to benefit Cancer Focus. The children of the parish on Sunday past prayed for Simon saying Akulinda. Mungu akubariki.(He watches over you. God bless you)



Benburb Priory Says Farewell to Church of Ireland Rector

Pictured (l to r): Fr Bernard Thorne OSM, retired Prior of Benburb Priory; Fr John Hughes, retired curate of Clonfeacle RC Parish; Rev Suzanne Cousins; and Prof Gerry McKenna MRIA, Chair of Benburb Priory Management Board.

JUNE 27, 2023

An informal reception was held at Benburb Priory on 19 June to mark the departure of neighbouring Church of Ireland Rector, Rev Suzanne Cousins. The Rev Cousins is leaving the Parish of Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy and Eglisli after four years to become Rector of the Aughaval Group of Parishes in Co Mayo. She was presented with a gift and thanked warmly for her outstanding contribution to the wider local community, and the close fraternal relations developed with the Priory during her period of ministry in Benburb.



Dublin day for Belfast choristers

The choir of St George's Parish Church, Belfast, marked the end of term with a day in Dublin which included singing in St



Bartholomew's Parish Church and a picnic which included parents and friends.

JUNE 27, 2023

Elders ordained in Antrim



On Sunday night Sam McCormick, Peter McFetridge and Ryan McKeown were ordained and installed as ruling elders in 1st Antrim Presbyterian Church by a Commission of the Presbytery of Templepatrick.

JUNE 27, 2023

New Rector is welcomed back to Stillorgan and Blackrock



The Church Wardens of St Brigid's Stillorgan and All Saints' Blackrock with clergy involved in the service – the Revd Sean Hanily, the Revd Robert Marshall, Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Revd Kevin Conroy, the Revd Dr Isobel Hawthorne–Steele and Archdeacon David Pierpoint.

Parishioners of Stillorgan and Blackrock gave a warm welcome back to their new Rector and his family on Friday evening (June 23). The Revd Kevin Conroy, who was Deacon Intern in the parishes in 2014 and provided cover there in recent months, was instituted by Archbishop Michael Jackson in St Brigid's Church, Stillorgan.

JUNE 27, 2023

Kevin was joined by his wife Olive and their sons Shane, Cathal and Cian, each of whom took part in the service. Kevin's brothers were also among the large congregation along with a contingent of his former colleagues in IT company SAP. Kevin studied for ordination part time and served as a Self Supporting Minister until his appointment to Stillorgan and Blackrock.

Among the representatives of civic society were Leas Chathoirleach of Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council Cllr Eva Dowling and Minister of State Neale Richmond, who presented the towel, a symbol of service which is among the symbols of ministry presented to the new Rector during the Service of Institution. The Gospel was read by, the Revd Robert Marshall, who also gave a brief history of the parishes and their churches, which also include All Saints', Blackrock.

The sermon was preached by the Revd Dr Isobel Hawthorne–Steele, Priest-in-Charge of Greenisland, who trained with Kevin in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. She said people described Kevin as kind, caring, fun loving, compassionate and a godly man; or a jolly, holy giant as she put it.

Drawing on the reading from Micah [6: 6–8] she said that Kevin's modus operandi was the same as Micah's and they had the same qualities. Micah was telling people that it was time to repent. The treatment of the poor saw those in power fostering a culture of silence so that the oppressed could not rise up. Those in power were followers of God on the surface but in their hearts they looked after their own interests. When they asked what the Lord wanted Micah told

them he required them “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”.

“Kevin, like Micah, is totally committed to social justice... We as Christians need to be involved in a social justice agenda. We need to find those in our congregations who will rise up for Jesus,” Dr Hawthorne–Steele said. “Each of us is absolutely challenged to love justice, to show mercy and to walk humbly. We pray that the God of peace equip you Kevin.”

Following the service there were a number of speeches coordinated by the Rural Dean, the Revd Gary Dowd. Claire McManus spoke on behalf of the parishes to welcome Kevin as their new Rector. She recalled first meeting Kevin, Olive, Shane, Cathal and Cian when Kevin came as Deacon Intern in 2014. She said they quickly became an integral part of the parishes. “I know that his initial sojourn here started lasting friendships. It started with us and it ends with us for now. We are delighted to call you our new Rector,” she said. Holly Grier presented Olive with flowers.

Fr Joe Mullan, Adm of the neighbouring Mount Merrion, Kilmacud and Clonskeagh parish, spoke of the joy of the shared ecumenical spirit between the parishes. He looked forward to continuing the tradition of carrying the Cross together on Good Friday and said it was a wonderful new beginning for the parish.

Archbishop Michael Jackson observed that Kevin knows the parishes and the communities very well and he knows the people and they know him. He said that the route that Kevin had taken to ordination and incumbency was a route he

JUNE 27, 2023

wanted to see flourish in the dioceses. “He undertook his training while working and for that Kevin I would like to thank you,” he commented. He also thanked everyone who made the service possible including the Revd Robert Marshall and the preacher for her insights and wished Kevin and Olive and their family well.

Kevin observed that Google Maps was great for telling people how to get from A to B but he suggested life was more difficult, requiring prayer and people. He thanked his

St Columba's Parish Church, Knock, Belfast



SUMMER CONCERT

Saint Columba's Cantors & Guests

Phillip Elliott *organ*

Joe McKee *Choral Director*

Friday 30 June 2023 at 7.30pm

Suggested minimum voluntary donation of £10
to Church Music Fund

There will be light refreshments after the concert

JUNE 27, 2023

parents and brothers for their influence and is SAP colleagues with whom he had worked for 22 and a half years. He paid tribute to all those in the parish who had worked so hard to prepare for their arrival and Robert who had provided great support. He reserved special mention for his sons and Olive who had accompanied him on his journey.

News reports



World Council of Churches marks 75th anniversary with prayer and celebration

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has commemorated its 75th anniversary with an ecumenical celebration at Saint Pierre Cathedral in Geneva, recalling the founding of the WCC in Amsterdam in

JUNE 27, 2023

August 1948, three years after the end of the Second World War.

“People came together in Amsterdam in 1948 with a clear purpose of leading the churches of the world together and making them an instrument of peace,” the moderator of the WCC’s central committee, Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, from Bavaria, Germany, said in his sermon at the service on 25 June.



The World Council of Churches central committee joins local congregants at the St Pierre Cathedral in central Geneva to celebrate the 75th anniversary since the founding of the Council in 1948. Left to right (front row): WCC central committee vice-moderator H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian; WCC central committee vice-moderator Rev. Merlyn Hyde Riley; WCC central committee moderator Bishop Dr Heinrich Bedford Strohm; WCC general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay.



“They clearly declared that war is against the will of God and that our task as Christians is exactly to overcome nationalism and other forms of division between peoples, which had just resulted in this terrible world war with so many million victims,” he continued.

“Reconciliation was from the very beginning of its existence, part of the very DNA of the WCC,” said Bedford-Strohm.

The cathedral was packed for the commemoration at which its congregation was joined by members of the WCC’s central committee, currently meeting in Geneva, and ecumenical guests.

Prayers were led by the WCC presidents and leadership, as well as cathedral clergy.

“



“It is a joy to be with you on this day and especially during this time of praying together at this very special time in the life of this central committee and in the life of the WCC as we celebrate our 75th anniversary,” said the WCC’s general secretary, Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay, as he thanked the cathedral and its pastors for their welcome.

In her greeting, the president of the Protestant Church of Geneva, Eva Di Fortunato, welcomed the congregation to the celebration to mark the WCC anniversary.

To be the church, she said, “means singing together, praying together, journeying together, and above all recognizing and valuing the diversity of traditions within our communities.”



The WCC's 1st Assembly in Amsterdam from 22 August to 4 September 1948 gathered 351 delegates from 147 churches of different confessions and traditions.

Today the WCC brings together 352 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican, and other churches representing more than 580 million Christians in over 120 countries, and works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church.

The WCC has a close historical connection with St Pierre Cathedral, which became Protestant during the 16th-century Reformation.

A marble plaque at the cathedral commemorates the ecumenical service held there in February 1946 with members of the provisional committee preparing for the founding of the WCC from countries that only months before had been at war with each other.

In his sermon, Bedford-Strohm said that as a German he felt shame at the failure of Christian witness in his country in the face of the war that led to 60 million deaths and six million Jews murdered in concentration camps and gas chambers.

“The Christian churches in Germany had not spoken up against this war,” he said. “Most of their representatives followed and religiously legitimized a state ideology, which was in deep contradiction to Christian faith.”

Bedford-Strohm recalled how delegates in Amsterdam committed themselves to put Christ before all other loyalties in the world.

“Where are we now? Have we lived up to the legacy of Amsterdam? Are we, as churches, really an instrument of peace in all the armed conflicts on this globe?” Bedford-Strohm asked.

“I wish the answer was a clear ‘yes.’ But it is not. Too often, we still put our national or political loyalties before our loyalty to Jesus Christ, and sometimes we don’t even notice it,” he warned.

“That is why we have to listen to the biblical witness about Christ again and again,” he said.

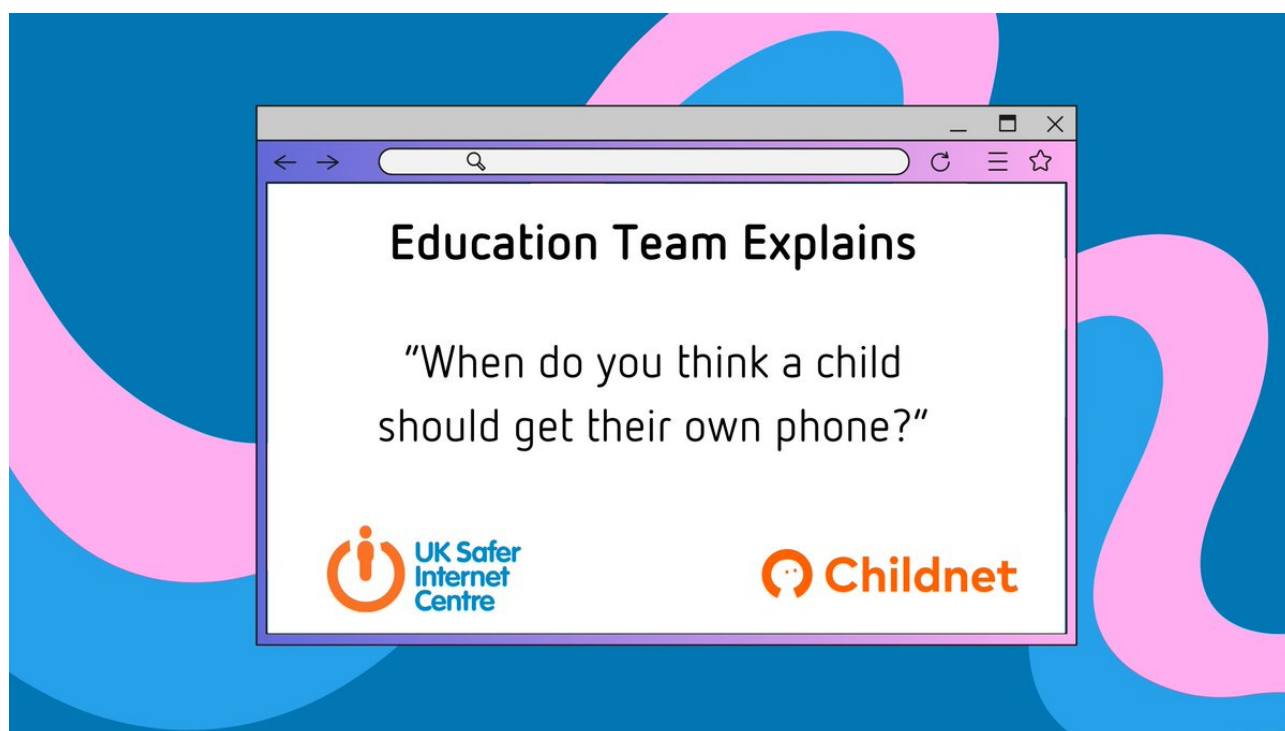
“Christ is present in our WCC Pilgrimage for Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity,” said Bedford-Strohm. “He will not leave us alone. He is, and will be, in our midst. He is with us always to the end of the age.”

JUNE 27, 2023

Photo gallery from the WCC 75th anniversary celebration at St Pierre Cathedral

Live-stream video of the WCC 75th anniversary celebration at St Pierre Cathedral

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



There is no perfect age for a child to be given their first phone. You can take the time to decide what will work best for your family.

Our Education Team answer "When do you think my child should get their own phone?"


<https://bit.ly/3LDroT6>

DOCKSIDE FESTIVAL

You are cordially invited to

A NIGHT OF

MILITARY MUSIC



St. Anne's Cathedral
Wednesday 5th July 2023 at 6.30 p.m.
– Band of the Royal Irish Regiment will be performing from 7.30 pm –

After-event will be held in Buffs Club (Church Street) 9pm-Midnight

Minimum donation: £2 (to support the upkeep the Remembrance Garden, Shore Road)
Admission Strictly Ticket Only – Evening facilitated by HUBB Old Comrades Group
Band appears by kind permission of the Commander 38 (Irish) Brigade
RSVP – jcrothers@belfasthubb.co.uk

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

