

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast**

June 28, 2023

## Image of the day

### National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

**Dr Amy Orr-Ewing delivered the keynote message on The Power of Forgiveness in Public Life.**

She said, 'The instinct in culture that harm matters so profoundly that a person must pay, must perhaps even die some kind of social or professional death for their transgression, points beyond itself to the echo of a story that has given meaning to millions of people around the world for over 2,000 years.'



The Rt Hon Baroness Morgan of Cotes, Lord Weir of Ballyholme and Carol Monaghan MP led the prayers

'Jesus of Nazareth, as God incarnate, God in the flesh, willingly died by crucifixion at the hands of the Romans. And



Marsha De Cordova MP reads from Mark 10.35–45



as we heard in the reading, his death is described in the New Testament as a ransom, an offering, and a sacrifice. He pays a price for the transgressions of the world that means that forgiveness can be real. The price we all intuitively sense must be paid for harm, is actually paid by Jesus.'



Dr Amy Orr-Ewing

'The Christian offer of forgiveness is for everyone – to receive it and to be empowered to give it.'

'In practical terms, I want to suggest that the concept of Christian forgiveness is a gift to any culture. Forgiveness and redemption are possible, and outrage at injustice has a foundation in reality.'

'The Christian message acknowledges that wrongdoing is real and that there is a real need for justice. It challenges us to admit that all of us are flawed in some way ourselves. All of us, also need forgiveness.'

Commenting on the event, Gavin Carver said, “Great to be at the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. Wonderful to pray with 700+ Christian leaders and parliamentarians. Enjoying listening to my friend, Amy Orr-Ewing, speaking powerfully. Lord please do something amazing in our nation.”

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More MPs than ever before were present at the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast (over 180, 28% of the Commons)

## People and places



## Gurteen 75th Diamond Anniversary service

**“It was so wonderful to welcome Methodists and ex-students from all over Ireland to Gurteen on Sunday for the 75th Diamond Anniversary celebratory service”.**

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The organisers also report that they met some incredible people, and heard the most amazing stories about student life at Gurteen is years gone by.

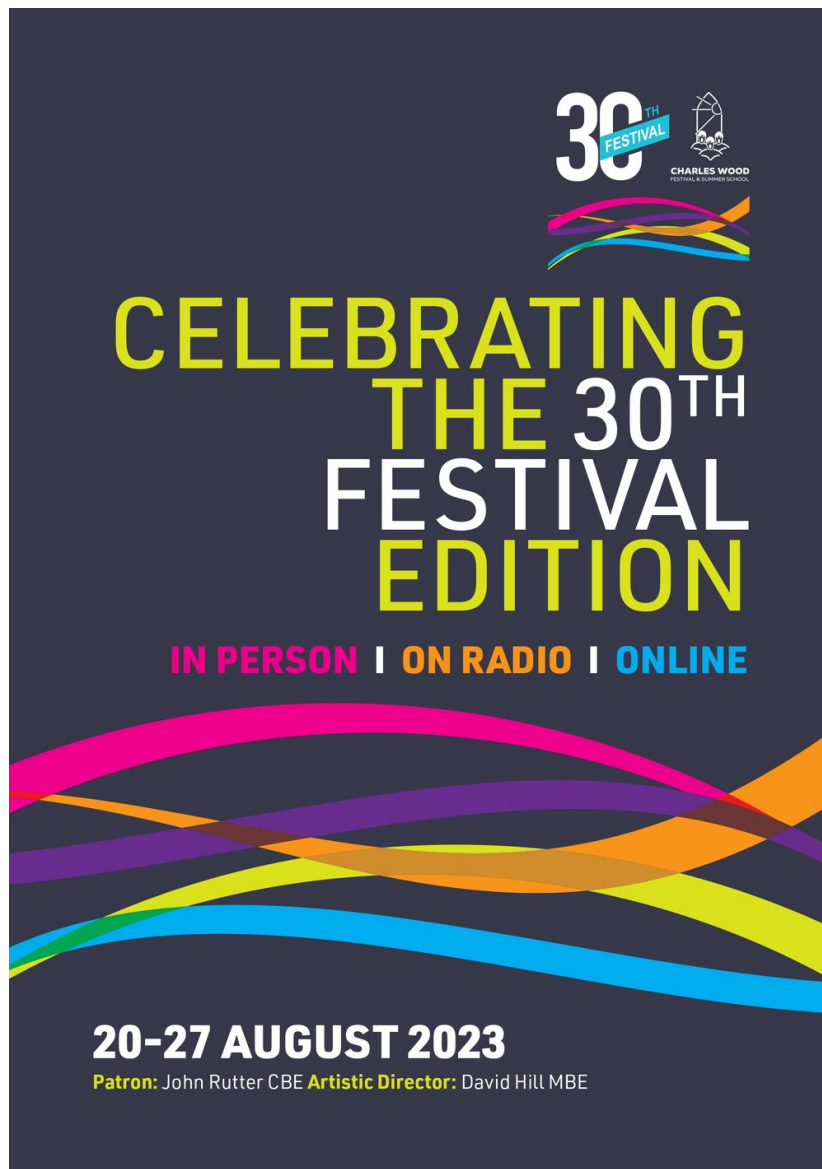
A huge thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to the service- it was truly a fantastic event and one to remember!



## Launch of 30th Charles Wood Festival programme

**The Festival week will build on the successes of previous years, with big opportunities for community outreach and participation.**

The programme promises a great mix of services, concerts, lessons and masterclasses in Armagh city's churches.



The organisers comment, “You’re invited to celebrate with us, to bask in the knowledge of our experts and to sample the excellence of our performers.

“We are extremely grateful to all our supporters, including our principal funders Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, without whom our work would not be possible”.

Link to the programme and to free tickets for various events

[bit.ly/3XFUQMh](https://bit.ly/3XFUQMh)



## Florida Handbell Ringers and Singers impact at Knock



The Handbell Ringers and Singers of First United Methodist Church, Lakeland, Florida, shared in the service on Sunday at Knock Methodist Church Belfast, and then

presented a wonderful concert in the afternoon. “A fantastic day” sums up the feedback.



## News reports



### **Lead C of E bishop for housing backs Prince of Wales homelessness project**

**Church of England's lead bishop for housing Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani backs Prince of Wales bid to end homelessness**

The Church of England's lead bishop for housing Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, has welcomed the launch of the five-year

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Homewards project by the Prince of Wales to end long term homelessness.

"I am delighted to see the personal commitment the Prince of Wales has made to ending homelessness," she said.

"Across the Church of England we share this desire to tackle the underlying causes as well as supporting those in crisis.

**"The leadership of the Prince of Wales will undoubtedly have a tangible impact; his determination to address this crisis will be welcomed by churches up and down the country who are on the front line of supporting those experiencing homelessness.**

"Ending homelessness does indeed require a societal response, and we will play our part.

"The Coming Home report from the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community set out the role that the Church can play in addressing a lack of truly affordable and high quality housing - a major factor behind homelessness.

"We are working to bring about that vision, and are grateful for the wisdom and encouragement from the Duchy of Cornwall and Royal Foundation.

"Good homes provide a foundation for communities where everyone can flourish. Together we have substantial resources to bring to bear, and so we look forward to adding

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our support to the Prince of Wales as he leads on this vital issue.”



## In this week in history - Coventry's St Michael and the Devil

**The magnificent St Michael and the Devil statue created by Sir Jacob Epstein was unveiled by Lady Epstein at Coventry Cathedral on the 24th June 1960.**

This was Epstein's last commission and at the time was seen to be controversial. St Michael's head is modelled on the sculptor's son-in-law, Wynne Godley and the wings based on those of a swan. Unfortunately Epstein passed away in 1959 and it was one of his last sculptures and did not live to see it unveiled in 1960. Photo courtesy of Dylan Parrin

## In the media



### **Belfast teacher wins Headteacher of the Year award**

**A headteacher originally from south Belfast has won an ‘Oscar of Education’ just a few weeks before her retirement.**

Belfast Telegraph - Heather Hanbury, headmistress at Lady Eleanor Holles (LEH) School in Hampton, Richmond-Upon-Thames, England, was crowned Headteacher of the Year (Independent) at the Tes Schools Awards on Friday.

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Ms Hanbury was presented with her prize by actor James Nesbitt at the ceremony, which has been dubbed the 'Oscars of Education'.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/education/belfast-born-educator-crowned-headteacher-of-the-year-at-tes-schools-awards/a1103245807.html>



## Names of 44 men added to Banbridge War Memorial

The names of 44 men from the wider Banbridge area, who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country during the First World War, have been added to the town's war memorial.

Belfast News Letter - Search begins for relatives

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<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/people/the-names-of-44-brave-soldiers-who-died-in-world-war-one-added-to-banbridge-war-memorial-4196762>



**Argentina - “Without the truth, it is not possible to heal the wounds and bring reconciliation.”**

**America Magazine - the Jesuit Review**

**New research reveals Argentine bishops knew the military junta was ‘disappearing’ people and chose not to speak out publicly**

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The first two volumes of a groundbreaking research project presented at the Vatican June 16 reveal in detail for the first time how Argentina's Catholic Church and the Vatican responded to the violence in Argentina between 1966 and 1983, and particularly during the military dictatorship (1976-83).

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2023/06/23/argentina-dirty-war-pope-francis-bishops-disappeared-245548>

## German judge allows prayer around abortion clinics



**CNE News - German pro-life groups may continue their prayer next to abortion clinics. A court has ruled that this practice is legal.**

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Pro-life organisations are free to organise prayer vigils where, when and how they want. That is the content of the verdict of the Sixth Senate of the Federal Administrative Court in Leipzig last week, [Die Tagespost](#) reports. With that, the judges confirmed the earlier ruling of the Administrative Court of Baden-Württemberg.

<https://cne.news/article/3257-german-judge-allows-prayer-around-abortion-clinics>

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

WCC central committee 2023

CC interviews

**Rev. Prof. Dr Neal D. Presa,**  
Executive Committee -  
Presbyterian Church (USA)



More info at  
[www.oikoumene.org/central-committee-2023](http://www.oikoumene.org/central-committee-2023)



Introducing Rev. Prof. Dr. Neal D. Presa, a respected voice from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a WCC Executive Committee member. Get inspired as he shares his perspectives in this interview from the WCC Central Committee - <https://youtu.be/jUIEamUeCtY>





# Scouts 60 days of summer

We've put together a summer bucket list of our favourite things to do. From stargazing to making wild art and climbing to yoga, there's something for everyone. How many will you do?

“Summer has officially started! That's why we've put together a list of our favourite things to do. Take part in the Scouts Sixty Days of Summer Bucket List at home or in Scouts. Take a look and get started today!”

The reference below leads to a well organised and easily accessible resource - useful for parents, children's ministry and youth leaders. Give it a go -

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



One year after the World Meeting of Families in Rome [#WMOF22](#) organised by the [@diocesidiroma](#)

,  
[@LaityFamilyLife](#) makes all the materials available on the page. From today, all the material can be found, downloaded and shared only here -

[laityfamilylife.va](http://laityfamilylife.va)  
[WMOF2022](#)

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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