

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Fair Head**

## Image of the day

### Fair Head

The Strand at Ballycastle, looking towards Fair Head, and Scotland in the distance. Photo courtesy of Liam Gibson

## People and places

### Happ-pea smiles at Stoneyford parish aid southern Malawi farmers

**Two members of Stoneyford Parish have been celebrating the success of farming communities in southern Malawi which have seen lives transformed since receiving a fairer price for their pigeon pea crop.**

To coincide with Christian Aid Week (May 14-20), Norma Parker and Zelda Hearst, who help to coordinate the charity's fundraising efforts at St John's Parish Church in Stoneyford, shared a photo with pea pods in place of their normal smiles to demonstrate their happiness for farmers who have received a higher income for their drought-resistant harvest since joining a Christian Aid-supported pigeon pea cooperative.

Pigeon peas thrive in drought-prone southern Malawi. They're cheap to grow from recycled seed and require only minimal amounts of fertiliser and pesticides, making them



Happ-pea smiles! Stoneyford parishioners Norma Parker (left) and Zelda Hearst

an ideal crop to grow in a region where more than 60 per cent of families live in poverty.

Esther Saizi, a 54-year-old widowed grandmother, is one of more than 3,300 farmers helped by Christian Aid's local partner, the Nandolo Farmers' Association, which runs the pigeon pea cooperative.

With the improved profits from her harvest, Esther began buying goats, which provide milk and meat for her family as well as manure for her crops, which saves on expensive



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fertiliser. Esther even used her income to buy a sewing machine and now she makes clothes for her family.

The extra income also enabled Esther to support her elder daughter's carpentry business and her younger daughter's dream of going to college and qualifying as a nurse. She is also paying school fees for her four-year-old grandson.



*a service of*  
**LAMENT**

**Courage to remember the past. Seeking hope for the future.**

**21st June 2023**  
**11.30am - 12.30pm**  
**St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast**



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



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Christian Aid Ireland Chief Executive, Rosamond Bennett praised the impact of the charity's supporters:

“The transformation in Esther’s fortunes in Malawi is only made possible by our incredible supporters who generously give each Christian Aid Week to fund our work to help tackle the root causes of poverty around the world.”

Christian Aid Week has been running in Northern Ireland since 1957, making it the region’s longest running fundraising campaign. Each year, thousands of people donate to support people living in some of the poorest countries in the world as well as countries coping with conflict, drought, risk of famine and the impacts of climate change.



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## **Student accommodation near Queen’s University**

**Looking for a home away from home while at university?**

Want to get involved in a flourishing community that is Christ-centered?

Look no further than Derryvolgie Hall, the

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Presbyterian chaplaincy to Queen's University, Union and Stranmillis colleges. Jamie Trimble (photo) says, "Our application process is open right the way through to 11th August. Check out the link below (or in our bio) for more information and our application form."

<https://www.flowcode.com/page/pciqub>

If you want to get in touch email [office@pciqub.org](mailto:office@pciqub.org)



## **Personal goal for Three Peak Challenge smashed in memory of mother**

**Marcus Christie has managed to complete his gruelling personal challenge to climb the three highest peaks in England, Wales, and Scotland: Ben Nevis (1,344m), Scafell Pike (978m), and Snowdon (1,085m) in memory of his mother Joan Christie CVO OBE, a Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim and to aid Air Ambulance Northern Ireland.**



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The average time it takes to complete the challenge successfully is 24 hours, assuming participants have trained and prepared for it.

Marcus did just that over the last few months, and this weekend, he not only completed the task in hand but managed to do so in 21 hours and 7 minutes - an incredible achievement for a first-timer!

He attributes his success to the ‘incredible team that supported him over the three ascends and descends’.

An impressive achievement and one which was both emotionally and physically challenging.



  
SAINT  
PATRICK'S  
CATHEDRAL  
DUBLIN

**WE ARE HIRING**

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**Schools Officer**

**Closing date: Friday 16th June 2023**

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 [stpatrickscathedral.ie/careers](http://stpatrickscathedral.ie/careers)

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As Marcus heads off for some much-deserved relaxation and recovery, he is thankful for all the donations to date for this highly respected life-saving service - NI Air Ambulance. For those who have not been able to donate, it's not too late to donate.

Marcus is fundraising for the NI Air Ambulance Service as On December 28th last year, a tragic accident later took the life of Joan Christie CVO OBE, a beloved wife of the late Dan and much-loved mother of Joanna, Harriett and Marcus.

Despite the swift response of the NI Air Ambulance, which arrived on the scene within 20 minutes of receiving the emergency call, Joan's injuries proved fatal, and she passed away in hospital on 1st January 2023. Her funeral service was held in St Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymena.

The NI Air Ambulance is a life-saving service reliant solely on donations, and Marcus has managed to raise a staggering £17,000 to date

## **Saying Goodbye baby loss service**

**Saying Goodbye, part of the Mariposa Trust, are coming to Belfast on 11 June with a very special baby loss remembrance and support service, part of a UK and Ireland chain of events.**

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Saying Goodbye services and this year there will be 21 services across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland with the Belfast





service taking place on 11 June at 3.30pm in St Anne's Cathedral.

It is for anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend.

The Mariposa Trust says it has extended the services and welcomes anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children due to circumstance, infertility, or for other reasons. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is a family event for all.

Support

The Mariposa Trust's core objective is to support people who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy. It was founded in 2012, by Zoe and Andy Clark-Coates, who saw a critical lack of support for people who, like them, had gone through baby loss.

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With more than 258,000 babies being lost yearly in the UK alone, the charity needed to be able to offer not only a comprehensive package of befriending and support but also national baby loss remembrance services (called Saying Goodbye Services), for people to join together and remember the children they had lost.

To read more about the charity, please visit the Saying Goodbye website AT this link.

[<https://www.sayinggoodbye.org/>]

## **Renaissance Chamber Choir's Music for a Royal Occasion**

Mrs Patricia Corbett MBE DL represented HM Lord Lieutenant at An Evening of Music for a Royal Occasion by The Renaissance Chamber Choir directed by Simon Neill BEM.

She commented, "Congratulations to you all. Thank you for a wonderful programme in Coronation Year".

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## Service celebrates life of Northern Ireland World Cup manager Billy Bingham

**The life and footballing career of the late Billy Bingham MBE was remembered in a Service of Thanksgiving held in Belfast Cathedral on Wednesday June 7.**

Bingham, an outstanding player for his country, was diagnosed with dementia in 2006 and died a year ago aged 90.

As a manager he twice guided Northern Ireland to the World Cup finals, first in 1982 when they famously beat hosts Spain, and again in 1986.

Gerry Armstrong, Billy Hamilton and Jimmy Nicholl were among the other members of the 1982 team to attend the service.





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Current Northern Ireland manager Michael O'Neill, Olympic gold medal-winning athlete Lady Mary Peters and several politicians were also among the congregation.

The memorial service was organised by the Irish Football Association (IFA) and led by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde. Music was provided by the Cathedral's Master of Music, Jack Wilson; Belfast Community Gospel Choir; and pianist Ian Hannah.

In his words of welcome, Dean Forde paid tribute to Billy's 'skill and determination' and reflected on those World Cup campaigns in 1982 and 1986. "They lifted the spirit of the Northern Ireland community during some of the darkest days of the Troubles," he said.

Philip Mitchell, Pastoral Director for Sports Chaplaincy in Ireland, welcomed Billy's son David, who later gave a Eulogy on the theme 'Winning Spirit' in honour of his father. Billy's grandsons Joseph, Peter and Patrick were also present, with Patrick reading Psalm 121.

Gerry Armstrong, who wrote his name into the history books by scoring the winning goal in Northern Ireland's iconic victory against hosts Spain in 1982, read from 1 Corinthians 9, verse 24.

Martin O'Neill, who captained Northern Ireland in 1982, paid a personal tribute to Billy. The former Celtic and Leicester manager told the congregation that Bingham appointed him as captain in 1980.

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He said: “This would be a big, monumental decision, the first Catholic to be in charge of Northern Ireland as a captain.

“I was very concerned about it because the Troubles were rife.

“He would be up there today with anyone, you talk about (Pep) Guardiola, you talk about these great managers, Billy was a class apart tactically.” told the service that Bingham appointed him as captain in 1980.

“He said to me, ‘I’ll take a bit of flak for it but that will dissipate if we win some football matches’.”

O’Neill said the decision was a sign of Bingham’s strength of character. He added: “He was tactically as astute as any coach I’ve ever worked with.



Westminster Abbey - 'Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord' Psalm 32: 10

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IFA chaplain Pastor Mark Patterson gave the address.

The Belfast Community Gospel Choir filled the Cathedral with song in their energetic performances of Amazing Grace, Bridge Over Troubled Water and How Great Thou Art.

The service was livestreamed on the IFA's YouTube channel and can be watched there.

## News reports

### **Pope Francis undergoes hernia surgery, will stay at hospital several days**

**Pope Francis is resting at the hospital after a three hour abdominal surgery on Wednesday to repair a hernia in his abdomen that had been causing him recurring pain, according to a Vatican statement.**

The procedure is related to the surgery Francis underwent in early July 2021 to remove diverticular stenosis in his colon. He stayed at the hospital for 10 days that time.

"The operation, arranged in recent days by the medical team assisting the Holy Father, became necessary due to an incarcerated incisional hernia that is causing recurring, painful and worsening sub-occlusive syndromes," the Vatican statement read.



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The surgery took place "without complications," the Vatican announces, but the pope's agenda has been cleared until June 18.

The 86-year-old Francis had gone to the hospital on Tuesday for a routine checkup, where it was determined that the operation was necessary. In late May, the pope had canceled all his meetings, citing poor health.

After his usual Wednesday audience in St. Peter's Square, Francis was taken to the Il Gemelli Hospital in Rome to undergo surgery under general anesthesia.

News of the pope's operation was first broken by the Italian media and later confirmed by Vatican spokesperson Matteo Bruni.

Francis will stay at the health facility for "several days," the Vatican said, "to allow for the normal post-operative course and full functional recovery."

Francis has seen his health decline in recent years. Sciatica in his lower back and leg has forced the pope to use a cane or wheelchair and limit his foreign travel.

Last March, the pope was taken once again to Il Gemelli to treat bronchitis that had caused him to struggle to breathe.

The Vatican did not say whether the pope's surgery would affect his plans to go to Portugal in August for World Youth Day.

## Top of the Crops - prestigious awards for Scottish Grove olive oil



**Olive oil produced from a grove supported by the Church of Scotland in Israel has scooped two international awards.**

Two varieties - the Cortina (Extra Positive Olive Oil) and Piqual (Extra Social Olive Oil) both won silver medals in the highly prestigious and competitive international Ovibeja olive oil competition in Portugal.

The oil is extracted from olives grown in the Scottish Grove in the heart of the Jazreel Valley between Nazareth and Tel Megiddo (Armageddon) by Sindyanna of Galilee.

A non-profit organisation led by a team of Arab and Jewish women, it produces olive oil and other premium food

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products including honey, almonds and carob syrup while promoting Fair Trade, creating economic opportunities and assisting local growers and producers.

Planted in 2012, the Scottish Grove serves as the missing link between the Arab farmer and the Israeli market - the first flourishing organic olive grove of its kind in the region.

It is a model of co-operation between Arab landowners, the Abu Hatum family, Sindyanna of Galilee, and the Church, which has a long history in the Middle East and is active in advocating for a just peace in the region in political and religious arenas.

In addition to St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias Church, which operate as one congregation, the Kirk owns the Scots Hotel in Tiberias, St Andrew's Guesthouse in Jerusalem and Tabeetha School in Jaffa.

Reacting to the awards win, Rev Muriel Pearson, Associate Minister of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias Church, said: "The Scots Hotel uses Sindyanna Oil exclusively.

"We always knew it was the best and now it has the awards to prove it.

"Sindyanna of Galilee is also a model of co-operative working between Jewish and Palestinian Israelis."

Pilgrim groups from Scotland and elsewhere are encouraged to pay a visit to the non-profit organisation's factory to learn about its products and meet the remarkable



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women who are working together for social justice and a positive change in Israeli society.

Hadas Lahav, CEO of Sindyanna of Galilee, said: "This marvellous olive grove allows us to promote the modernisation of traditional Arab farming and agriculture by introducing new techniques, irrigation, and olive cultivars.

"It enables us to aid sustainable cultivation and agriculture, invest all future proceeds of the grove in community projects that promote fair employment for Arab women and oversee the entire value chain, from field to extra virgin olive oil bottle."

A plaque erected in the Scottish Grove was dedicated by Very Rev David Arnott, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2011-12.

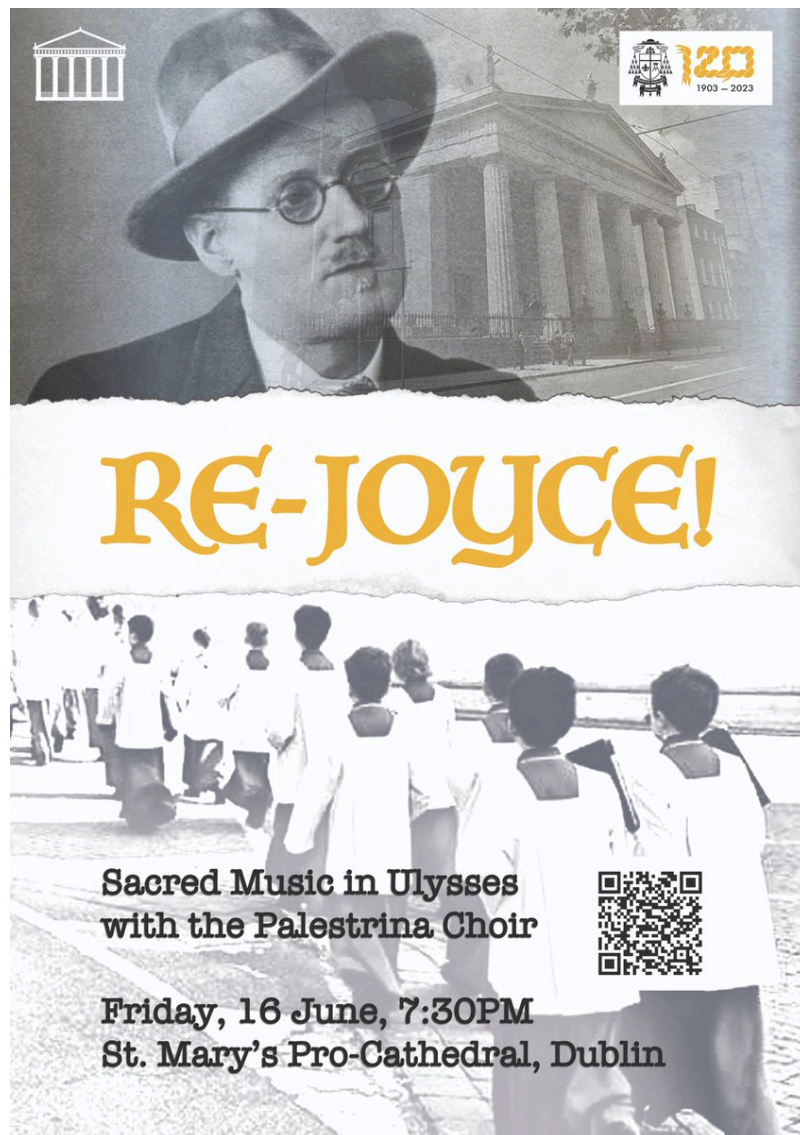
## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Dunmurry Cello Summer Soirée

Tickets are now available on Eventbrite or to purchase in church. This will be a wonderful evening of cello music performed by Scott Heron and friends.

Dunmurry Presbyterian Church - Saturday 17th June from 7pm - 9pm. Further information on the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/636610588407>



## **16 June: Palestrina Choir Re-Joyce on Bloomsday!**

"Some of that old sacred music splendid. Mercadante: seven last words. Mozart's twelfth mass: Gloria in that." (but...is it by Mozart?) A new look at references to sacred music in Joyce's Ulysses and other works

## **Songs and Scones at Carnmoney**

Two local community choirs, Lagan Camerata and Una Voce, will combine to perform an informal afternoon recital in Carnmoney Parish Hall on Saturday 10th June at 3 pm.

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Lagan Camerata is a mixed voice group whose repertoire is mainly a cappella, and Una Voce is a female voice choir with a wide ranging repertoire of pieces, both sacred and secular, from classical through to traditional folksongs and pop.

The hour-long recital will be rounded off with afternoon tea and an opportunity to chat with choir members.

There is no admission charge, but there will be an opportunity for donations to the Northern Ireland Hospice. Everybody welcome.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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