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War graves on the Somme in winter

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## People and places

### Archbishop Martin welcomes Pope Francis' Message for World Communications Day 2022

**Archbishop Eamon Martin has welcomed this year's World Communications Day message which has just been published by Pope Francis.**

Archbishop Martin said, "I warmly welcome Pope Francis' 2022 World Communications Day message, which emphasises the importance of listening. This year's message, Listening with the ear of the heart, is an invitation to reflect on how listening involves more than simply the sense of hearing. True listening is a foundation of genuine relationships, and is foundational to the relationship between God and humanity.





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“In his message Pope Francis notes that many people ‘are quickly losing the ability to listen to one another, while at the same time listening is undergoing new developments, especially due to new forms of communicating.’

“It is also timely that the Holy Father highlights the importance of listening in the context of the Synodal Process, which the Church is currently engaged in at a local and universal level. In his message Pope Francis says,

‘The most important task in pastoral activity is the ‘apostolate of the ear’ – to listen before speaking, as the Apostle James exhorts, ‘Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak’ (1:19). Freely giving some of our own time to listen to people is the first act of charity.

‘A synodal process has just been launched. Let us pray that it will be a great opportunity to listen to one another. Communion, in fact, is not the result of strategies and programmes, but is built in mutual listening between brothers and sisters.

‘With the awareness that we participate in a communion that precedes and includes us, we can rediscover a symphonic Church, in which each person is able to sing with his or her own voice, welcoming the voices of others as a gift to manifest the harmony of the whole that the Holy Spirit composes.’

Archbishop Martin concluded, “Following on from Pope Francis’ 2021 theme, Come and See – Communicating by Encountering People Where and as They Are, I invite people across Ireland to read, reflect and listen to the Holy





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Photo above -Director Matthew Laferty and World Methodist Council vice president Ms. Gillian Kingston hosted a lunch for Methodist students attending the Bossey Ecumenical Institute at the World Council of Churches in Geneva who are visiting Rome on a study tour this week



## Canons in Kilmore

Congratulations to Canon Ruth West and Canon Ian Horner who were installed as Prebendaries of St Fethlimidh's Cathedral, Kilmore on Sunday evening. God's blessings as they continue in their ministries.

## New Rector for Clogher parishes

**The Revd Lindsey Farrell has been instituted as Rector of the Grouped Parishes of Maguiresbridge and**

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## **Derrybrusk in Clogher Diocese at a service on Thursday evening, 20th January.**

Revd Farrell, who grew up in Clogher Diocese, undertook part of her training for ordained ministry in the Diocese and had been serving as Bishop's Curate of the Inver Group of parishes which includes Mountcharles, Inver, Killaghtee and Killybegs along the Wild Atlantic way in the Diocese of Raphoe for the past three years before her new appointment.

The Service of Institution was conducted by the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis assisted by the Archdeacon, the Venerable Brian Harper; Diocesan Registrar, Revd John McClenaghan and the Rural Dean, the Revd John Woods. The preacher was Archdeacon David Huss, Rector of Donegal and Archdeacon of Raphoe.

Welcoming the new Rector to Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk was Mr David Graydon, Churchwarden, who

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also thanked Revd Storey for all his work over the past few years.

Speaking to her new congregation for the first time, Revd Farrell firstly thanked the parishioners of her Donegal parishes for taking her and her family into their hearts and homes and asked her new parishioners for continued prayer to enable her and her family to settle into their new surroundings.

Bishop Ian Ellis, who had supervised Revd Farrell in her Deacon Intern year spent in Rossorry Parish, thanked the parish and diocesan nominators, the Select Vestry and Rural Dean, organist, Churchwardens and Diocesan Secretary Glenn Moore for organising the Covid-secure and friendly service of institution and to Archdeacon David Huss for preaching.

Bishop Ellis also thanked Revd Storey for his ministry in both parishes during the vacancy which he knew was well respected, supported by his wife, Gertie.

## **Service of Introduction Down & Dromore**

The Revd Karen Salmon will be introduced as Bishop's Curate for the Grouped Parishes of Magherally and Annaclone on Tuesday 8 March, 2022 at 7.30 pm.

The preacher at the service will be Revd Canon Mark Harvey, Rector of Shankill Parish Lurgan.



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## Readers in Connor

Congratulations to Peter Kirch and Michael Ogilby who on Sunday morning were commissioned by the Bishop of Connor. Peter Kirch is Youth Officer with Divine Healing Ministries.

## Meeting of Down & Dromore Exploring Ministry Group

**The Exploring Ministry Group will meet for the second time in this two-year cycle on Wednesday 26 January at 7.30 pm in Christ Church Kilkeel.**

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The group will share Holy Communion and all Covid guidelines will be observed.

The EMG meets four times a year and gives you the opportunity to connect with other like-minded individuals, to learn more about the process, discover your gifts, test your call, ask questions and receive prayer and support.

The programme runs over a two-year cycle, and you may join the group at any point in the two years.

As well as visiting different centres of ministry around the diocese and having input from local church leaders about ministry in their context, you will also consider topics such as the character and spirituality of a leader, communicating God's Word, evangelism, clergy life, transition and cultural engagement. In addition, you will spend time discussing chapters from a book that will help you explore the various criteria involved in the selection process.

Individuals are usually expected to belong to the EMG for at least one year before progressing further along the route to selection. It is worth noting that being part of this group does not necessarily mean that a person will go on to become ordained.

How do I join the Exploring Ministry Group?

If you haven't already done so, it's a good idea to chat through your sense of call with your minister and other trusted Christians. Please also get in touch with one of the (Joint) Diocesan Directors of Ordinands, Revd Simon Genoe and Revd Karen Salmon who oversee the EMG.

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## EMG Meeting Dates for 2022

Wednesday 26 January in Kilkeel

Wednesday 6 April in Willowfield

Wednesday 22 June in Mount Merrion

Want to find out more? Download the latest Ordination Training Brochure at -

[[] <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/events/2021/12/meeting-of-exploring-ministry-group> ]

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

### Christian Unity in Douglas, Cork

To round up the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 in Cork, Cloyne and Ross, a video was filmed in Douglas, where the Ven. Adrian Wilkinson, Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, and Fr Pat O'Mahony talked about their ecumenical relationship.

The video features both, the Roman Catholic Church of St Columbus and the Church of Ireland Church of St Luke. In the spirit of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the video connects our journey as Christians to the journey of the Magi to the Christ Child.

You can watch the video here -

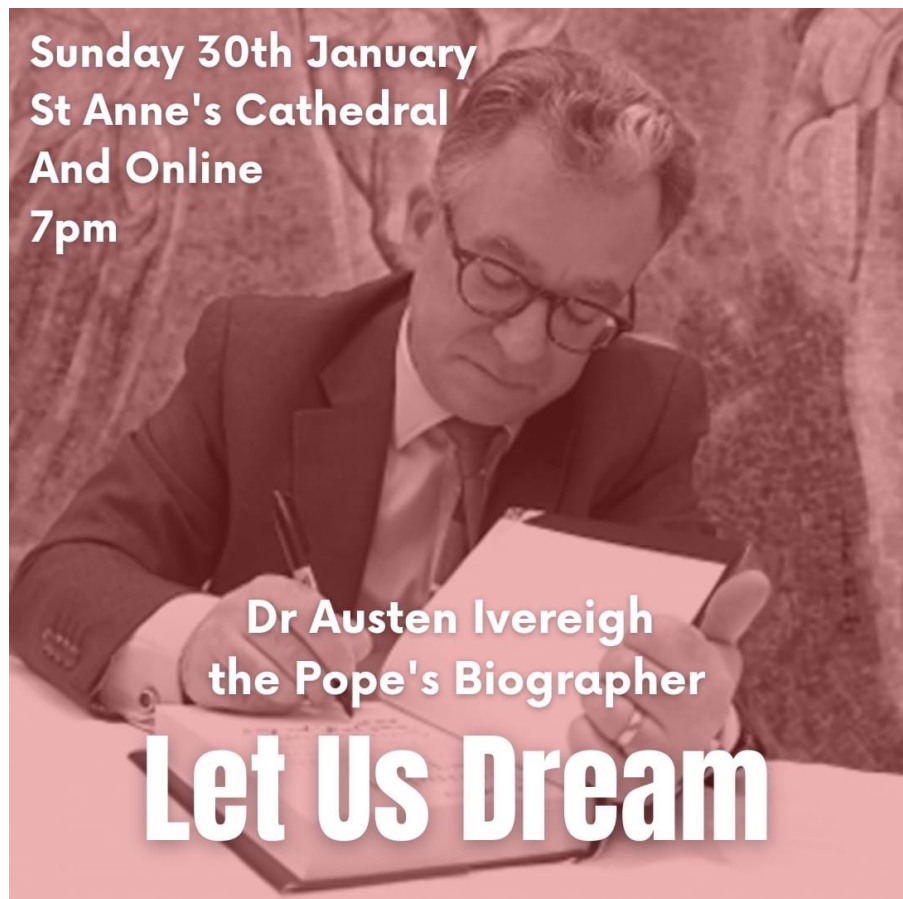
[[] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XC-qMb1WG00> ]



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## **Pope's biographer in person and online**

Four Corners Festival, Belfast, says it is privileged to have the Pope's biographer and collaborator, Dr Austen Ivereigh, with us to open the festival this year, with his event Let Us Dream.



A few in person tickets are still available, so book quickly before they go!

Online tickets are also available.

<http://ow.ly/XL9A50HxQom>

## **Looking back at St Mungo's Festival 2022**

The Medieval Glasgow Trust, Glasgow Churches Together and Glasgow Life organise the annual St Mungo's Festival. It celebrates Glasgow's patron saint and endeavours to increase awareness of the Glasgow's history through free events and exhibitions which attempt to bring alive the story of the city's founding to all its people.



The 2022 Festival was held around the Feast Day of St Mungo on 13 January, between 8-17 January. Recordings are now available of the Opening Event, the St Mungo Lecture, 'Signs and Symbols of Glasgow Cathedral' and a Festival Ecumenical Service. Links - Glasgow Churches Together: [ <https://glasgowchurches.org.uk/> ] St Mungo's Festival [ <https://stmungofestival.co.uk/> ]

## In the media

**'I have never been happy trying to convert another person'**

Belfast Telegraph - The Reverend Lena Cockcroft is a retired minister and the first woman to be ordained by the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland. She celebrated the 40th anniversary of her Ordination on January 9. Subscription

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[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/i-have-never-been-happy-trying-to-convert-another-person-41266043.html> ]

## **Bishop of London calls on Government to delay mandatory health worker vaccination ...**

Anglican Ink - Bishop Sarah, who chairs the Church of England's COVID Recovery Group, and was formerly Chief Nursing Officer for the United Kingdom, joins groups ...

[[] <https://anglican.ink/2022/01/23/bishop-of-london-calls-on-government-to-delay-mandatory-health-worker-vaccination-legislation/> ]

## **Cambridge college alumni take row over slavery-linked donor to court, in UK first**

The Telegraph - Jesus College, Cambridge wrote to the Church of England to propose that the memorial of Tobias Rustat should be stripped out of its chapel following ...

[[] <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/23/cambridge-college-alumni-take-row-slavery-linked-donor-court/> ]

## **Jesuit Order announces redress scheme for victims of child sex abuser Joseph Marmion**

TheJournal.ie - A compensation scheme for men sexually assaulted as boys by child sex predator Fr Joseph Marmion, has been made public by the Jesuit religious order.

Marmion, who died in 2000 aged 75, is believed to have sexually assaulted dozens of boys whom he taught at



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Belvedere College, Dublin; Crescent College, Limerick; as well as at Clongowes Wood College, Kildare.

The redress scheme by the three Jesuit Colleges in Ireland has been welcomed by a steering committee representing the men and offers €75,000 plus, depending on severity of the abuse.

[[] <https://www.thejournal.ie/jesuit-order-redress-scheme-joseph-marmion-5657618-Jan2022/> ]

## News Reports

### Vatican website gives space to group demanding female priesthood

**The Vatican has given space on its website to a Catholic group that demands the ordination of women priests during consultations ahead of a key meeting next year.**

While the Church remains opposed to women priests, the inclusion of resource material from the Women's Ordination Conference (WOC) is part of an opening up of debate on a range of issues that has pleased liberals but angered traditionalists.

It follows the publication last month of material from a Catholic gay rights advocacy group on the same part of the website dedicated to the meeting, which is known as a synod.

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That publication was criticised by Catholic conservatives who have accused Pope Francis and the Vatican of sending mixed signals on traditional teachings.

"The courageous dialogue called for by the synodal process must include open conversation about women's ordination," WOC said in a Tweet welcoming the inclusion of its material on the synod website.

The U.S.-based organisation's package of background material is called "Let Her Voice Carry - a Synod Toolkit for Ordination Justice Advocates".

The group calls itself the "uncompromising feminist voice for women's ordination and gender equity in the Roman Catholic Church" and its leaders assist at the ordinations of female priests, which Church leaders say are illegitimate and invalid.

The 2023 synod, called "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission" is already steeped in division.

Supporters see it as an opportunity to change the Church's power dynamics and give a greater voice to lay Catholics, including women, and people on the margins of society.

Pope Francis has said he wants the long consultative phase to be broad and inclusive, but conservatives say the three-stage process of dialogue - local, national and international - may erode the hierarchical structure of the 1.3 billion member Church and, in the long run, dilute traditional doctrine.

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The Catholic Church teaches that only men can be priests because Jesus chose only men as his apostles.

Supporters of a female priesthood say Jesus was merely conforming to the customs of his times and that women played a greater role in the early Church than is commonly recognised.

The pope has ruled out a female priesthood, saying the "door is closed" on the issue.

He has allowed women to have greater roles in a number of Vatican departments.

## **Pro-life group criticizes Macron's call to add abortion to rights charter**

**A pro-life group in France has denounced President Emmanuel Macron's call to add abortion to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.**

"Advocating for the inclusion of a 'right to abortion' in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ignores the violence that abortion often inflicts on many women," Alliance VITA said in a statement on Jan. 19.

"In France, a study found that less affluent women have more abortions than wealthier women. Abortion is a marker of social inequality."



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Alliance VITA is an association in France that provides support for women facing difficult or unplanned pregnancies and advocates for the protection of human life in public policy.

Caroline Roux, the deputy executive director of Alliance VITA, said that it is “necessary more than ever that a real assessment of the causes, conditions, and consequences of abortion be carried out at national and European level.”

“This would be a real step forward that the French Presidency should offer to protect women,” she said.

France took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time in 14 years on Jan. 1. The Community of Sant’Egidio, a Catholic group, has proposed a collaboration with Macron to promote the abolition of the death penalty worldwide during the French EU presidency.

Macron called on Jan. 19 for the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to be revised “to be more explicit on environmental protection or the recognition of the right to abortion,” in a speech to members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France.

In the address, he noted that the charter has “enshrined the abolition of the death penalty throughout the Union.”

Roux said that the French president’s comments about the “abolition of the death penalty” and the “recognition of the right to abortion” side by side show that “Emmanuel Macron’s intention is out of step.”

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“Addressing the painful issue of abortion head-on, without prior debate, and without mentioning any policies of prevention and support, is to do violence to the many women who want society to help them avoid abortion, which is often carried out under pressure,” she said.

“The abolition of the death penalty, recalled by the president in his speech, as well as the right to life are among the values inscribed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.”

The EU charter recognizes the right to life but does not mention abortion. It states that “Everyone has the right to life” and “No one shall be condemned to the death penalty, or executed.”

Macron’s speech came on the same day that the French Senate again rejected a bill to extend abortion on demand beyond 12 weeks, the current legal limit on abortions in France.

Under current French law, abortions in the second and third trimesters are permitted only if two physicians certify that it is necessary to save the life of the mother, to prevent grave and permanent harm to her health, or the child has a severe and incurable illness.

The French Senate voted 202 to 138 to reject the bill for a legal extension of abortion from 12 weeks to 14 weeks on Jan. 19, according to Le Figaro.

In response to the vote, Brigitte Bourguignon, the French Minister of Autonomy, said that the government “fiercely defends” a right to abortion, adding that “the President of the

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Republic reaffirmed this commitment forcefully this very morning.”

“The declaration of the President of the Republic shows an incoherent position, disconnected from the reality experienced by women,” Alliance VITA said.

Courtesy The Catholic Herald

## **Three members of ACNA response team resign from overseeing abuse investigation**

**The move comes days after the response team named a firm to lead the investigation.**

Three members of the group overseeing the investigation into sexual abuse allegations in the Anglican Church in North America’s Upper Midwest Diocese resigned (Jan. 17), saying that the team “downplayed or ignored” abuse survivors’ needs.

The move comes days after the group, called the Provincial Response Team, named a firm to investigate how diocesan leadership handled the allegations.

“To the survivors on the outside, and to the three of us as their advocates on the inside, the entire process never felt survivor-centered,” wrote former team members Autumn Hanna VandeHei, the Rev. Gina Roes and Christen Price. “Instead, it seemed designed to think first and foremost about ACNA, a familiar yet fatal flaw in trying to balance





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protecting the institution and creating a process for real accountability.”

The three cited the team’s failure to deliver promptly on promises of financial assistance to alleged victims, the team’s lack of clarity around decision-making processes and the lack of communication between members of the team.

“We hope that the public protests of the victims, amplified by our resignation, jars the Province into considering a truly trauma-informed and fully survivor-centered approach moving forward,” the three former team members wrote.

The investigation was already troubled by differences over the choice of a third-party investigator and the terms of that hiring.

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On Jan. 5, the Provincial Response Team emailed some alleged survivors, inviting them to offer their preference of two possible investigative firms. Members of ACNAtoo, a group of both survivors and anti-abuse advocates, responded with a petition that expressed concerns about both of the firms. The petition asked for a “survivor-centric” investigation, in which the contract with the firm would be shared with ACNAtoo and the denomination would waive attorney-client privilege.

More than 600 people had signed the petition as of Wednesday, and 10 of the alleged survivors indicated that they would not participate in the investigation as it stood.

More at -

[[] <https://religionnews.com/2022/01/19/three-members-of-acna-response-team-resign-from-overseeing-abuse-investigation/> ]

## Poem for today

### Postscript by Seamus Heaney

And some time make the time to drive out west  
Into County Clare, along the Flaggy Shore,  
In September or October, when the wind  
And the light are working off each other  
So that the ocean on one side is wild  
With foam and glitter, and inland among stones  
The surface of a slate-grey lake is lit  
By the earthed lightning of a flock of swans,  
Their feathers roughed and ruffling, white on white,

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Their fully grown headstrong-looking heads  
Tucked or cresting or busy underwater.  
Useless to think you'll park and capture it  
More thoroughly. You are neither here nor there,  
A hurry through which known and strange things pass  
As big soft buffetings come at the car sideways  
And catch the heart off guard and blow it open.

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