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Faithful Innovators & Ordinary Radicals by Peter Rouch, 2022 marks the 140th anniversary of the founding of Church Army.

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People and places



Choirs invited to record Platinum Jubilee anthem

Choirs are invited to record a specially-written Platinum Jubilee anthem to be released on YouTube featuring choirs from around the world.

The competition, supported by Premier Christian Radio, will bring together choirs from around the Commonwealth.

The new anthem 'Rise Up and Serve' has been commissioned by HOPE Together and partners, and written by song writers Graham Kendrick, Mal Pope and the contemporary worship band Rend Collective.

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The lyrics, music and resource track are available at theplatinumjubilee.com/sing, so choirs can start to practise this new song for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, to honour the Queen's 70 years of faith and service.

Competition winners will be chosen for the YouTube video, which will feature choirs from around the Commonwealth singing the new anthem. The video will be produced by Les Moir from the Word & Worship Trust who played a significant role in bringing together The UK Blessing, which has been watched by nearly five million people.

Churches are also invited to bring their communities together to sing the anthem at street parties and special events over the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend.

Recording guidelines are available to download from theplatinumjubilee.com/sing,

The competition deadline is Monday March 7.

C of I prayers for Platinum Jubilee

Although the Jubilee Weekend is scheduled for 2nd–5th June, Sunday 6th February is the date of the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

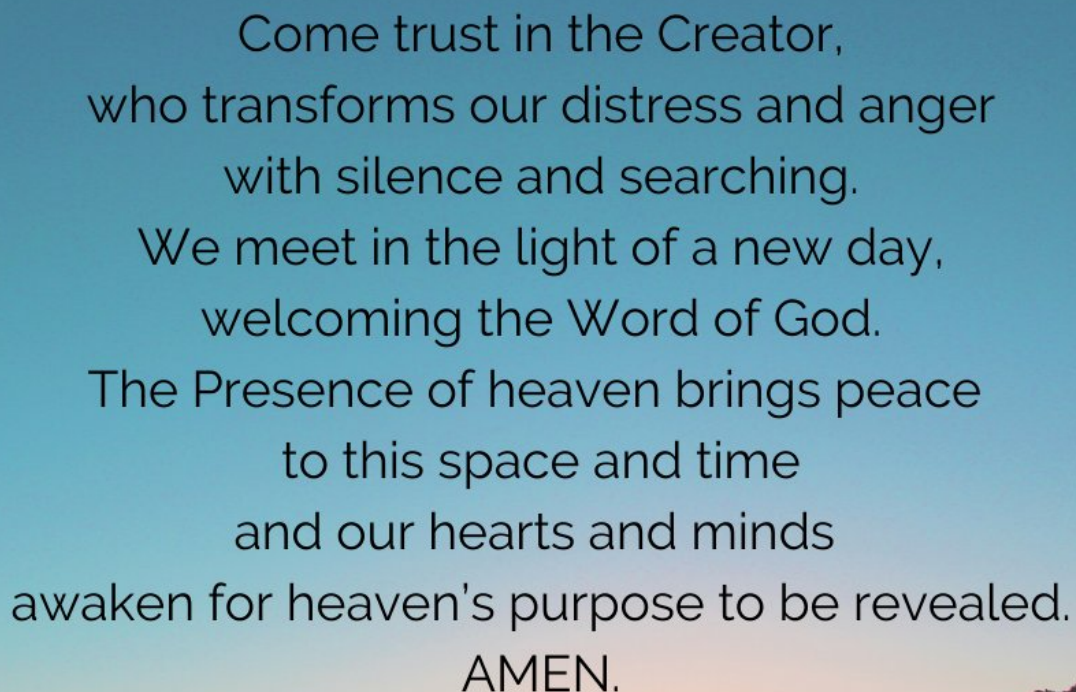
In advance of a wider suite of resources which will be published later in the year, the Church of Ireland's Liturgical Advisory Committee (LAC) has published two Collects for clergy, readers and other worship leaders who may wish to

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remember this significant anniversary during services on Sunday, 6th February.

The Collects

Almighty God,
whose son Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace;
Grant that, as we celebrate the earthly reign
of your servant Elizabeth our Queen,
so through her example of faith and self-giving
your people may come to know
the fulness of your power and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Come trust in the Creator,
who transforms our distress and anger
with silence and searching.
We meet in the light of a new day,
welcoming the Word of God.
The Presence of heaven brings peace
to this space and time
and our hearts and minds
awaken for heaven's purpose to be revealed.
AMEN.

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Lord God, the Ancient of Days,
you are sovereign over all your people;
Give to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth
enduring wisdom and faith
in the service of the people of this land
and of you, her Lord and master.
Grant that her faithful witness
may be to others a source of hope,
that they may come to know more fully
your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

St Brigid's day service led by Kilkenny Gospel Choir

A St Brigid's day service will be led by the Kilkenny Gospel Choir will take place on Tuesday, February 1, in St Fiacre's Church Loughboy Kilkenny at 7.30pm.

In compliance with government guidelines the Kilkenny Gospel Choir will lead the service with songs and prayers remembering all families who have been touched in different ways by Covid-19, St Brigid, 'the Mary of the Gael', as she has been known to generations of Irish people, commands affection and respect. Brigid was a strong woman who opposed the authoritarian attitude of her time and fought for the rights of women especially those who were victims of abuse and hardship.

"People attend the service and take the water and red flannel home with them invoking the protection of St Brigid.

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It is said that St Brigid's cloak was made of red flannel and when she spread her cloak over the sick, the worried or the anxious they were healed," said Fr Willie Purcell who will lead the service.

This years' service will include holy water from the well of St Brigid which will be available as well as red flannel associated with the healing ministry of St Brigid. All are invited to bring their St Brigid's Crosses to be blessed.


"At this difficult time in the lives of all people its important we are united in support of each other and what better way than to gather and pray for each other," said Mary Kealy Kilkenny Gospel Choir PRO.


For further information on the night contact the Kilkenny Gospel Choir [@kilkennygospelchoir@gmail.com](mailto:kilkennygospelchoir@gmail.com). - Kilkenny People report


C of I help with marriage counselling or marriage enrichment

Funding is available to members of the Church of Ireland who would like to avail of marriage counselling or marriage enrichment services.

The marriage council is willing to financially support couples who are seeking support.

 Sessions can be done in person or via zoom with a fully qualified marriage counsellor.

 All services are strictly confidential between the couple and their counsellor.

 To access the services just click on the link below and make contact with any of the Church of Ireland marriage counsellors on the list provided.

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/our-faith/how-do-i-/marriage/enrichment-support-for-married-life>

78th Anniversary of first ordination of a woman priest in the Anglican Communion

This week is the 78th anniversary of the first ordination of a woman priest in the Anglican Communion.

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Florence Li Tim-Oi was born in Hong Kong in 1907. She received her theological education in the 1930s and in 1940 was sent by Bishop Ronald Hall to help refugees in Macau. She was ordained a deaconess in 1941.

The Japanese occupation of Hong Kong and parts of China made it impossible for

Anglican priests to get to neutral Macau. Due to these exceptional circumstances, Li was authorised by Bishop Ronald to give the sacraments to Anglican congregations.

Early in 1944, Li travelled through Japanese-occupied territory to Shaoqing, where Hall ordained her to the priesthood on 25th January. The Archbishop of Canterbury was personally conflicted about this but felt compelled to publicly criticise the situation. It was to be another 30 years before any Anglican church regularised the ordination of

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women. To avoid controversy, Florence Li resigned her licence (though not her priestly orders) after the end of the war.

Hong Kong ordained two further women priests in 1971 (Joyce M. Bennett and Jane Hwang). Florence Li was then officially recognised as a priest in the diocese.

She was appointed an honorary assistant priest in Toronto in 1983, where she spent the remainder of her life. She died on February 26th, 1992.

This portrait hangs in the Dick Sheppard Chapel at Saint Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

End of an era: Presbyterian church steeped in history closes its doors after 135 years

A church in Belfast which opened 135 years ago will close its doors this Sunday at the end of its morning service, Alf McCreay writes in the Belfast Telegraph

Windsor Presbyterian's congregation will then walk down to their new home at Great Victoria Street Presbyterian Church, near the city centre.

Rev Ivan Steen, the minister since 2012, said: "We are leaving Windsor because the stonework on this late 19th century building has deteriorated so much that we cannot afford to fix it. The building is being taken over by an art and

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drama group which, I believe, will have access to the required funding for a proper refurbishment.

“We regard this as an exciting opportunity to literally move to a site nearer the city centre, and we are most grateful the Great Victoria Street Church is giving us such a warm welcome.

“Our closing service this Sunday will include a number of special guests including several of our former ministers, and the Presbyterian Moderator. It will certainly be a landmark occasion, and for some people an emotional occasion as well.”

Over the years Windsor church, on the corner of the Lisburn Road and Derryvolgie Avenue, amalgamated with others in the South Belfast Presbytery. In 1993 it merged with the former Broadway Presbyterian Church on the Falls Road, which is now an Irish Language Centre. Windsor members recently shared an Irish language service of worship at the centre.

Then in 2010, Windsor amalgamated with Ulsterville Presbyterian Church on the Lisburn Road. In its heyday, Windsor was one of the most influential Presbyterian churches in Ireland. Two of its ministers became moderators — Rev John Irwin in 1917 and Rev William Corkey in 1933. The Corkey family in particular made a significant contribution to the wider work of the Church, including the establishment of Adelaide House and other care homes.

Windsor church has also made an important contribution to the Mission Outreach of the Presbyterian Church, particularly in China and India. During the Second World

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War, Windsor missionaries were imprisonment by the Japanese.

The church is on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. It was designed in 1887 by the architects Young and MacKenzie who also designed the Robinson and Cleaver building.

CNI - Home congregation of RB McDowell, TCD historian. Corkey and Rev Chancellor Quinn were key players in the debate on church involvement in the NI education system, and in particular the 1947 Act in N Ireland which reflected major aspects of the 1944 Act in GB - pioneered by Rab Butler supported by Archbishop William Temple.

In the media

Hypocrisy of Benedict is writ large in 2010 letter to Irish Catholics

Irish Times - The former pope excoriated Irish bishops for their handling of abuse allegations

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/hypocrisy-of-benedict-is-writ-large-in-2010-letter-to-irish-catholics-1.4784755>

UUP continues to back Beattie following tweet scandal

Belfast Telegraph - Ulster Unionist leader Doug Beattie has received the unanimous support of his party MLAs and party officers to continue as leader.

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[\[https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/uup-backs-doug-beattie-to-continue-as-leader-following-tweet-scandal-41277113.html\]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/uup-backs-doug-beattie-to-continue-as-leader-following-tweet-scandal-41277113.html)



No psychiatrist in private practice available for children with ADHD amid surge in demand

The Journal.ie - ADHD Ireland said it is “drowning” in calls from people asking about assessments and services.

<https://www.thejournal.ie/no-psychiatrist-in-private-practice-for-children-with-adhd-5663865-Jan2022/>

‘We’re thriving’: How one Catholic primary school changed its patronage

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Irish Times - Breaking the deadlock on creating multid denominational schools

Five years ago the small primary school at Aughaleemore, on the outskirts of Killarney, was facing certain closure.

Pupil numbers dropped to just 17 in 2015/16; when it reopened in September, parents chose not to send any of their children back.

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/we-re-thriving-how-one-catholic-primary-school-changed-its-patronage-1.4778423>]

Rochestown's Capuchin Friary to close

TheCork.ie - The Capuchin Order in Ireland has announced the closure of three of their friaries, including one in Cork. Br. Seán Kelly, Provincial Minister, said the friars will no longer have a community in residence at St. Anthony's Friary, Carlow, St. Francis Friary, Rochestown or in St. Francis Parish, Priorswood, Dublin.

[[] <https://www.thecork.ie/2022/01/24/religious-news-capuchin-order-to-close-rochestown-friary/>]

Protocol leaves northern farmers in no mans land

Brexit's Northern Ireland Protocol has left local farmers in a "no man's land" amid concerns they will be unable to benefit from new international trade deals, MPs have been told.

[<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/northern-ireland-farmers-left-in-no-mans-land-by-protocol-trade-rules-mps-told-41281303.html>]

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

Gospel Moments

Lay Leader of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Ms Hazel Loney shares the great challenges found in the Methodist Covenant Prayer.

Read the latest **Gospel Moments** blog in full at:

<https://buff.ly/3qYA3of>

C of I Children's Ministry Lent and Easter training

~We asked you what you wanted more of from us.

~You answered that you wanted a Lent and Easter training with resource pack.

~We listened!

And now there's only 11 days to book your tickets to this year's Lent and Easter training (and then we'll be frantically assembling and posting your lovely resource pack!)

We can't wait to share ideas that help us all journey to the Cross and learn more together about how Jesus makes all things new.

Check out the link to book your place:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/children-and-family-ministry-lent-and-easter-training-tickets-253239475087>

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Children's Ministry Conference



LENT & EASTER ONLINE TRAINING & RESOURCE PACK

JOIN US! 
FEB 17TH @ 7.30PM



- JOIN THE BUILDING BLOCKS TEAM FOR LENT & EASTER INSPIRATION: 40 DAY FAMILY CHALLENGE, VIDEOS, INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING & SO MUCH MORE!
- COME AWAY WITH GREAT RESOURCES & FRESH IDEAS TO EQUIP FAMILIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR USE IN YOUR CLUBS & SERVICES.
- MEET OTHER CHILDREN & FAMILY VOLUNTEERS FROM ACROSS IRELAND
- €10 BOOKING FEE

For more info contact
Lydia:
lydia.monds@gmail.com

The Irish Synodal Pathway

On 10 March 2021, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference announced a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly or Assemblies within the next five years. This process will focus on the question:

What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?

“We hope this website will become an important stopping point on that journey, resourcing each one of us as we continue our Synodal journey.”

[[] <https://synod.ie/>]

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We Are Messengers latest song

Please see the latest song by We Are Messengers called Close. The video was recorded in Mullaghfad Church, Clogher diocese.

<https://youtu.be/jlBQOnfeyTc>

Perspective

Faithful Innovators & Ordinary Radicals by Peter Rouch

2022 marks the 140th anniversary of the founding of Church Army.

It is often remarked that in life, only death and taxes are certain ... to which might reasonably be added constant change. I would conjecture that the founder of Church Army, Wilson Carlile, would have thought that the love of Jesus Christ was a more secure matter than either death or taxes, but I would be certain that ongoing change and development were a necessary part of how he understood his own life and the mission of Church Army.

Here at the Wilson Carlile Centre in Sheffield, where our national operations are based, we have a glass cabinet containing some things that Wilson would recognise. A notebook is there, filled with his miniscule and famously illegible handwriting, one of his trombones, even a pair of



his pince nez glasses. Step away from the cabinet however and there is almost nothing beyond the name of Church Army itself that is the same as it was when Wilson hung up his prayer book, let alone when Church Army began. Yet, my strong sense is that in the Church Army of today, and in our vision for where we understand God is calling us, Wilson Carlile would recognise and rejoice in the Church Army of the 21st century.

In his life Wilson Carlile displayed the recognition that you don't get different outcomes simply by doing the same things, by playing it safe. He lived in a UK and Ireland where poverty and exclusion marred the lives of millions. He was ordained into a Church of England from which many were alienated by the same patterns of exclusion. He wanted a different world and a church that was more generous in its embrace, and Church Army was the result.

Over the 140 years since we were founded the mission of Church Army has taken all manner of forms and I will not rehearse them here. Suffice it to say that despite the

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continued vibrancy of our work and the growth we are experiencing, across the span of years there are probably more things that we have ceased to do, or have developed for a period and then set aside, than things we have continued without interruption. Yet, as I say, I believe that Wilson Carlile would recognise and rejoice in the Church Army of the 21st century.

What then is the relationship between change and continuity? How does something stay the same despite the fact that more or less every aspect of it is has gone through profound transformation over time?

The Archbishop of Canterbury used the term “faithful innovation” in an address to the General Synod of the Church of England a few years ago. It is a good phrase. It reminds us of the need for those who are called into God’s mission to be radically responsive to changes in lives and social orders.

It also reminds us of the faithfulness to Jesus Christ and his pattern of the missionary God that is always the lens through which we understand and assess innovation. Most importantly, however, I suggest that it makes faithfulness a matter of innovation. Staying the same, never departing from well-known and deeply loved patterns of life, even church and Christian life, does not make us faithful. To be faithful to the pattern and call of the incarnate saviour is to embrace innovation, to let go what has been so that we can receive what by God’s grace is and will be. It is because Church Army remains just such a bunch of what the American evangelist Shane Claiborne would call “ordinary

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radicals”, that Wilson Carlile would recognise and rejoice in the Church Army of the 21st century.

Peter Rouch,

Peter Rouch has been CEO of Church Army since mid-2021. Before joining Church Army Peter worked with Lambeth Palace, as an Archdeacon, a parish priest in an inner urban estate, and in academic roles. Peter, his wife Tracey, and their dog Jaffa, very much enjoy life in Sheffield and they all love it when the daughters of the household, Rebecca and Kezia, return to the nest.

Poem for today

Going Home to Mayo by Paul Durcan

Leaving behind us the alien, foreign city of Dublin
My father drove us through the night in an old Ford Anglia,
His five-year-old son in the seat beside him,
The rexine seat of red leatherette,
And a yellow moon peered in through the windscreen.
‘Daddy, Daddy,’ I cried, ‘Pass out the moon,’
But no matter how hard he drove he could not pass out the moon.

Each town we passed through was another milestone
And their names were magic passwords into eternity:
Kilcock, Kinnegad, Strokestown, Elphin,
Tarmonbarry, Tulsk, Ballaghedereen, Ballyvarry;
Now we were in Mayo and the next stop was Turlough,
The village of Turlough in the heartland of Mayo,
And my father’s mother’s house, all oil-lamps and women,

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And my bedroom over the public bar below,
And in the morning cattle-cries and cock-crows:
Life's seemingly seamless garment gorgeously rent
By their screeches and bellowings. And in the evenings
I walked with my father in the high grass down by the river
Talking with him – an unheard-of thing in the city.

But home was not home and the moon could be no more
outflanked
Than the daylight nightmare of Dublin city:
Back down along the canal we chugged into the city
And each lock-gate tolled our mutual doom;
And railings and palings and asphalt and traffic lights,
And blocks after blocks of so-called 'new' tenements –
Thousands of crosses of loneliness planted
In the narrowing grave of the life of the father;
In the wide, wide cemetery of the boy's childhood.

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www.churchnewsireland.org

