



Image of the day - Sunset on the River Bann

Archbishop Eamon Martin pays tribute to journalists who gave their lives in the search of the truth

- **Archbishop Eamon's short video for World Communications Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H12BH3IGXHA>**

To mark World Communications Day which was celebrated today – the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Archbishop Eamon Martin has released a video presentation of Pope Francis' message. Pope Francis has chosen to reflect on the theme “‘Come and See’ (Jn 1:46). Communicating by Encountering People Where and as They Are.”

This theme recalls the Gospel account of the first disciples' initial encounters with Jesus, who invited them to “Come and see,” to enter into relationship with Him. Later, one of those disciples, Saint Philip, speaking to his friend Nathaniel, invited him to “Come and see” the Messiah whom he had found.

Please see below the text of Archbishop Eamon Martin's brief video welcoming Pope Francis' message for WCD2021:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
In the world of communications nothing beats seeing things in person – through first-hand experience.



For World Communications Day this year, Pope Francis reflects on those words, “Come and See” – words which Jesus himself sometimes used to people who were curious to find out more about him.

Good media and journalism likewise invites us to “Come and See” . The internet for example brings to our doorsteps events that are happening all over the world and enables us to share them with others.

Of course there is also the risk of misinformation and fake news. All the more reason, then, for people us to be responsible and authentic online and to be witnesses of the truth.

Pope Francis acknowledges in his message the courage and commitment of journalists and other media professionals who often risk their lives helping us to learn the reality of life around the world today.

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They beam onto our mobile devices and into our living rooms the hardships facing countless people around the world, like persecution, oppression, poverty, war and injustice.

In recent times, they have helped us to see first-hand the way that the Covid19 pandemic has been impacting people not just here at home but also in the poverty-stricken villages of Asia, Latin America and Africa.

I'm conscious today of the work of brave journalists here in Ireland like Lyra McKee, Veronica Guerin, and Martin O'Hagan who risked and lost their lives while seeking to uncover and report the truth.

I think also of the two Spanish journalists who were killed last month in Burkina Faso along with the Irish conservationist, Rory Young.

Pope Francis reminds us today how the Good News of the Gospel has spread down the centuries through person-to-person, heart-to-heart encounters.

Every media tool has its value in handing on the faith, but what really impresses others is a personal witness to faith, hope and charity.

That is the challenge that faces all of us – to communicate our love for Jesus by encountering others, where they are and as they are, and inviting them to “Come and See”.

God bless you in this mission, and may truth guide all those who are working in media and journalism here in Ireland.

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‘Faith in Fiction’ – join online event with author Catherine Fox

The Church of Ireland Centre DCU, the Centre for the Study of Irish Protestantism in Maynooth and the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough invite you to join them for ‘Faith in Fiction’, an online event streaming live next Thursday, May 20 at 7.30pm.

The event features celebrated author, Catherine Fox, and coincides with the publication of her latest Lindchester book ‘Tales from Lindford’ published by SPCM.



Catherine Fox

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The event will be exploring how faith is portrayed in fiction, and how you can have faith in fiction as a way of exploring matters of the heart.

You can join the event on YouTube here – https://youtu.be/FVFA_oT_Jto The broadcast will remain available on YouTube afterwards.

2020 was famously an ‘unprecedented year’. Now, in Catherine’s Fox’s ‘Tales from Lindford’, readers can relive this extraordinary year – at a safe and non-contagious distance – through the eyes and experiences of the people of Lindchester in this heartfelt novel, originally written as a series of blogs in real time in the midst of the pandemic. Catherine Fox’s popular series The Lindchester Chronicles has been described as ‘the 21st century’s answer to Trollope’s Barchester’ and the first novel in the series, Acts and Omissions, was chosen as one of The Guardian’s books of 2014. The third book in the series left the people of Lindchester at the end of 2016 and was intended as the final book in the series – but 2020 gave Catherine an irresistible opportunity to return to Lindford as she writes, ‘come with me, one more time, dear reader’.

Dr Catherine Wilcox, who writes as Catherine Fox, is a senior lecturer, teacher and director of the Creative Writing programme at Manchester Metropolitan University. She is the author of seven novels; a memoir about her quest to get a judo black belt, and a series of humorous books about the Church of England.

Find Faith in Fiction on YouTube here – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVFA_oT_Jto

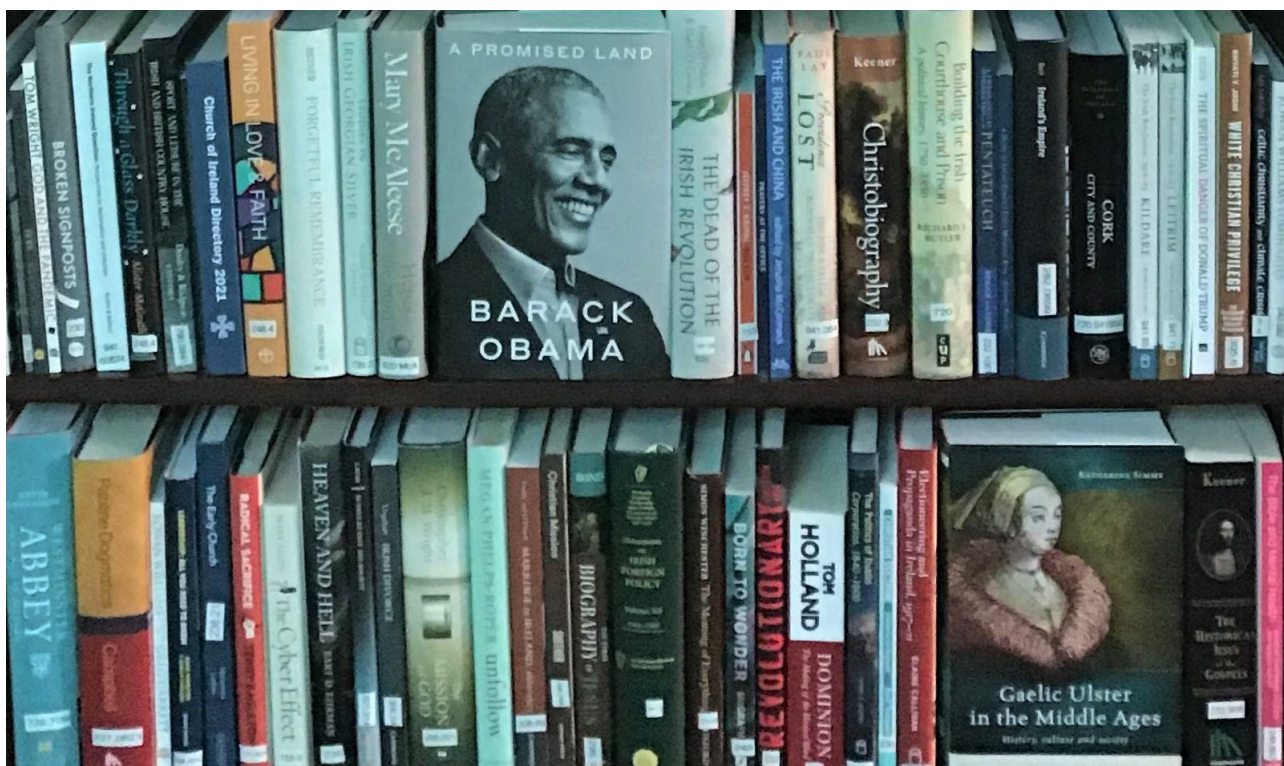
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Click-and-Collect at the RCB Library

In light of the welcome news of some easing of restrictions, the RCB Library has announced the availability of its Click-and-Collect service for printed books.

While the building remains closed to the public, access to the printed collection through Click-and-Collect will be a first step along the longer road to re-opening.



Orders received by 9am on the Monday of a given week will become available for collection at the Library, at precise pre-arranged times later in the same week. The Library will notify you of the collection time by email.

To help you become familiar with the online catalogue, and reserve any books you need, the library has developed three instructional video guides.

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In person
worship re-
commenced
in St
Patrick's
Cathedral,
Dublin. The
first since
Christmas
Day



The first
video tells
you how to
**request a
book** as part
of our new
Click-and-
Collect
service.

More
detailed information is available in the video, which can be
viewed [here](#).

The second video tells you how to **access your account**,
as well as how to **reserve a book** that is on loan to another
Library member. To view this video, please click [here](#).

The third video tells you how to **search for a book**, as well
as sharing some tips for **advanced searching**. To view this
video, please click [here](#).

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Returning books

If you have books to return, you may do this when you are making a collection. Books for return should be placed in the clearly-marked '**Returns Box**' situated just inside the front door.

New books

A list of newly-published books recently acquired by the Library can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<https://bit.ly/2Rbl2yF>

If you need any further assistance, please don't hesitate to email us at libman@rcbdub.org

Christ Church Cathedral reopening Trinity Sunday

Christ Church Dublin will be welcoming its congregation back into the cathedral on Sunday, 30 May, Trinity Sunday, for its patronal festival. The guest preacher for the service will be The Revd Dr Sahr Yambasu, President Designate of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

There is space for a maximum of 46 persons in the congregation. Services will continue to be streamed via the cathedral's webcam for those unable to be present with in person.

If you would like to attend the 11.00 Eucharist on Trinity Sunday, please email rsvp@christchurch.ie and indicate how many places you require by 21 May. In the event that

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the service is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by lottery.

All who express interest in attending on Trinity Sunday will receive confirmation by Wednesday, 26 May, as to whether or not a place is available.

Prior to attending please review the Covid-19 Guidance on the cathedral web site.

The Cathedral's normal pattern of choral services for the month of June will be as follows:

Thursdays

18.00 Choral Evensong (Doors open at 17.30 pm)

Sundays

11.00 Sung Eucharist (Doors open at 10.30)

15.30 Choral Evensong (Doors open at 15.00)

Please check on the Services page on the cathedral website for updates or changes in regards to upcoming services.

New chaplain at Lambeth

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has appointed the Revd Tosin Oladipo as his new chaplain.

Tosin, who is currently a parish priest in East London, will serve as chaplain to Archbishop Justin and the Lambeth Palace community. He will also have responsibility for

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developing Archbishop Justin's priority of prayer and the Religious life, particularly through the Community of St Anselm. He will begin the role at the start of July.

Tosin takes over from the Revd Prebendary Dr Isabelle Hamley, who in November last year was appointed Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Theology at the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity, and Theological Adviser to the House of Bishops. The Revd Cortland Fransella has served as Acting Chaplain to the Archbishop since then.

For the last three years, Tosin has served as part of the leadership team at SAINT, a resource church in East London, with specific responsibility for outreach, prayer, and the development of interns and ordinands. He has overseen community engagement and the revitalisation of St Mary's Leyton, as part of a partnership between Chelmsford and London dioceses. He has also been responsible for the work of the Lighthouse project, which has distributed over 300,000 meals to those in need since the start of the pandemic.

Alongside this, Tosin has led the prayer life of the church, which in the last year has included developing a digital 'Rule of Life': a creative and liturgical space to help sustain its community through the pandemic.

Before training for ministry, Tosin worked for 15 years in digital and video tech start-ups. He is married to Angela, a mental health professional.

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Archbishop Justin said: “I am delighted that Tosin will be joining the Lambeth Palace community. The chaplain at Lambeth ensures that prayer and worship underpin everything we do, and that our gaze remains fixed on Jesus Christ. I am grateful that Tosin will be bringing his immense pastoral skills, passion for the Gospel and dedication to prayer to the senior team at Lambeth, and I look forward to working alongside him enormously. My prayers are with Tosin and Angela as they say goodbye to their community in East London and prepare to join us at Lambeth.”

The Revd Tosin Oladipo said: “It will be a great privilege and an exciting challenge to serve as Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury - to pray for him and his family and to help deliver his priority for Prayer and Religious life. I look forward to joining the amazing community and working with the brilliant team at Lambeth Palace. Angela and I have loved our time in East London as part of SAINT. We will miss the team and all the incredible people we have come to know in Hackney and Leyton. Please pray for us as we enter this new chapter.”

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

The bells of Taney Parish ring out again

A lovely video from The Irish Times as the bells of Taney Parish ring out again after lockdown

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/offbeat/bells-ring-out-in-celebration-as-dublin-church-re-opens-for-services-1.4564547?>

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[fbclid=IwAR1b70nS82DO6AiE5bOP7z1aOsJ14QVV_kzoOp_gLKzhQmOPOTWsQ3fDQGxl](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchArmyIreland/?fbclid=IwAR1b70nS82DO6AiE5bOP7z1aOsJ14QVV_kzoOp_gLKzhQmOPOTWsQ3fDQGxl)

Digital Labs Conference - You are invited

Organised by the C of E - Whether you're a church leader, volunteer, photographer, you'll learn new skills from a line-up of digital experts.

Get your ticket now at cofe.io/LabsConference.

Church Army Discovery Day

Discovery Day (places still available!) on Saturday 22 May. Discovery Days are opportunities for people to explore their evangelistic gifting and to find out more about what it might look like to begin the journey towards becoming a Commissioned Church Army Evangelist.

[[] https://www.churcharmy.org/Articles/603833/Who_we_are/Join_us/Online_Discovery_Day.aspx]

Resource Hub for Unbelievable - The Conference 2021

The Resource Hub for this conference is open to folk who did not participate in the May 15 conference on how to tell the greatest story ever told.

[[] https://www.unbelievable.live/?utm_source=Premier%20Christian%20Media&utm_medium=email&utm]

The Public Leader course

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The Public Leader is a 10-month course which has been developed and delivered by the Evangelical Alliance to equip emerging Christian leaders to make a significant impact in every area of UK public life.

Delivered for the third year in Northern Ireland and beginning in autumn 2021, we help each of our participants grow into their unique roles of leadership as they seek to follow Jesus wherever they are called.

If this is for you or someone you know please find out more here or spread the word -

[[] <https://www.eauk.org/what-we-do/initiatives/public-leadership/public-leadership-course?utm>]

A Reflection for the Sunday After Ascension by Archbishop Michael Jackson

Dublin & Glendalough Diocese, 16 May 2021 at 06:00
Archbishop Michael Jackson offers a short reflection for the Sunday after Ascension. His reflection is based on based on St John 17: 6–19. As you, Father, have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their I sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. [St John 17: 18–19].

<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2021/05/16/a-reflection-for-the-sunday>

Limerick lunchtime talk remembering local scientist

On Tuesday in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, the second in a series of free online talks on the theme of '2021 Anniversaries' will begin at 1.15pm when the Precentor,

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Canon Patrick Comerford, will speak about the Limerick scientist, John D. Bernal, marking the 50th anniversary of his death. In Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, at 7.30pm, online via the cathedral webcam, there will be a short meditation on the theme of 'Come, Holy Spirit', in anticipation of Pentecost Sunday. The evening will include a focus on breathing with gentle body awareness along with a short scripture reflection to help participants to enter into a time of prayer for the needs of our loved ones and the world around us.

Ascensiontide Reflections from Dublin Cathedrals

During the time between Ascension (May 12) and Pentecost (May 23) on the Dublin & Glendalough web site there will be links to You Tube to a series of reflections and hymns from Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin and St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

The Dean's Vicar at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, Canon Charles Mullen, offered a reflection on Saturday May 15 entitled 'You want... You'd settle for... You get' based on John 16: 23. The Choir of Saint Patrick's Cathedral sings the beautiful hymn 'Let all the world in every corner sing'.

<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2021/05/15/a-reflection-for-ascensiontide-by>

Media review

'Spats of hate': Israeli Ambassador and Alan Shatter criticise TDs during committee meeting

thejournal.ie

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The Israeli Ambassador to Ireland has hit out at what he labelled as ... “Surely, if you believe that Jew, Arab, Christian and people who have no ...

[[] <https://www.thejournal.ie/israel-palestine-gaza-5436112-May2021/>]

Irish Presbyterians called for rescue of Jewish refugees

Heritage Florida Jewish News

The following archived Jewish Telegraphic News article, dated July 2, 1939, is a statement made by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church ...

[[] <https://www.heritagefl.com>]

Edwin Poots: Who is the new leader of the DUP?

BBC News

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-57115975>]

DUP leadership: The party that went from firebrands to government

BBC News

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-56951136>]

Images of the Day

The Irish Times images of the day, selected by picture editor Brenda Fitzsimons

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/images-of-the-day-1.4565539>]

Cafe in shadow of Leicester Cathedral has new name, new look and coffee which helps others

Leicestershire Live

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As before, it will be run by the team from St Martins House Conference Centre, part of the Church of England Diocese of Leicester, and will serve a ...

[[] <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/cafe-shadow-leicester-cathedral-new-5374331>]

St Paul's Cathedral could close without tourism cash

BBC News

Dr Ison said the Church of England has 16,000 churches and diocese to run and most of its income pays for clergy. "These heritage buildings belong to ...

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-56997142>]

The Right Reverend Alexander Graham, Bishop of Newcastle gifted with both theological and ...

MSN UK

He had by this time been chairman of the Church of England's Doctrine Commission for eight years and very successfully held together a group of professional theologians of sharply differing viewpoints. He was rewarded for this by the award of a Lambeth DD.

It is also fair to say that without Graham's theological and pastoral skills, and willingness to take risks, the Church of England might have been deprived of the ministry of Richard Chartres, who was Bishop of London from 1995 to 2017.

[[] <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/the-right-reverend-alexander-graham-bishop-of-newcastle-gifted-with-both-theological-and-pastoral-skills-%E2%80%93-obituary/ar-BB1gEHLP>]



Pointers for prayer

Mighty God,
in whom we know the power of redemption,
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,
we will share in his resurrection,
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

Living God,
long ago, faithful women
proclaimed the good news
of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.
Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,
and our faith as true. Amen.

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Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty,
and restore all things in glory
through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love,
and peace,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his
resurrection,
teaching them to love all people as neighbours.
As his disciples in this age,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe
in which we are privileged to live
and our neighbours with whom we share it.
Open our hearts to your power moving
around us and between us and within us,
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and
enemy,
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

Holy God,
you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son,
and to care for those who are our companions,
not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love.
Seeking to be true friends of all,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world.
Guide us in the path of discipleship,
so that, as you have blessed us,
we may be a blessing for others,

Speaking to the Soul - The Power of a Story

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 13:24-34a

24 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ 28 He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29 But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

31 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

33 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

34 Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing.

Meditation

There's something about the power of a story — the way it engages our hearts and minds, stirs our imaginations. Story touches our emotions and deepens our connection with meaningful truths. It broadens our horizons. It helps us make sense of our own experiences and better understand others'.

A good story can be a far more effective way to get an important message across, than any preaching or teaching, any lecture or pitch or diatribe. It's true!

Maybe that's why — according to the gospels — Jesus always taught in parables, simple stories that reveal profound spiritual truths. Stories that stay with us long after we've first heard them. Stories that speak to us on different levels and in different ways, in different seasons of our lives. Stories that help us live out our own stories authentically and intentionally, and find our part, our place, in the Greatest Story Ever Told.

As you reflect on the parables that Jesus taught, which one most speaks to you or most resonates with you right now? Which one raises questions you might need to consider?

Think about a truth you've discovered that's been life-changing for you, something that God has shown you, some wisdom you've acquired, or something worthwhile that you'd

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like to pass on to others. What's the story behind it? How did you come to this knowledge, this revelation? Or what's a great way to illustrate it, to understand it, and remember it?

Who can you share your story with today?

