



News about the main churches of Ireland - 12 reports

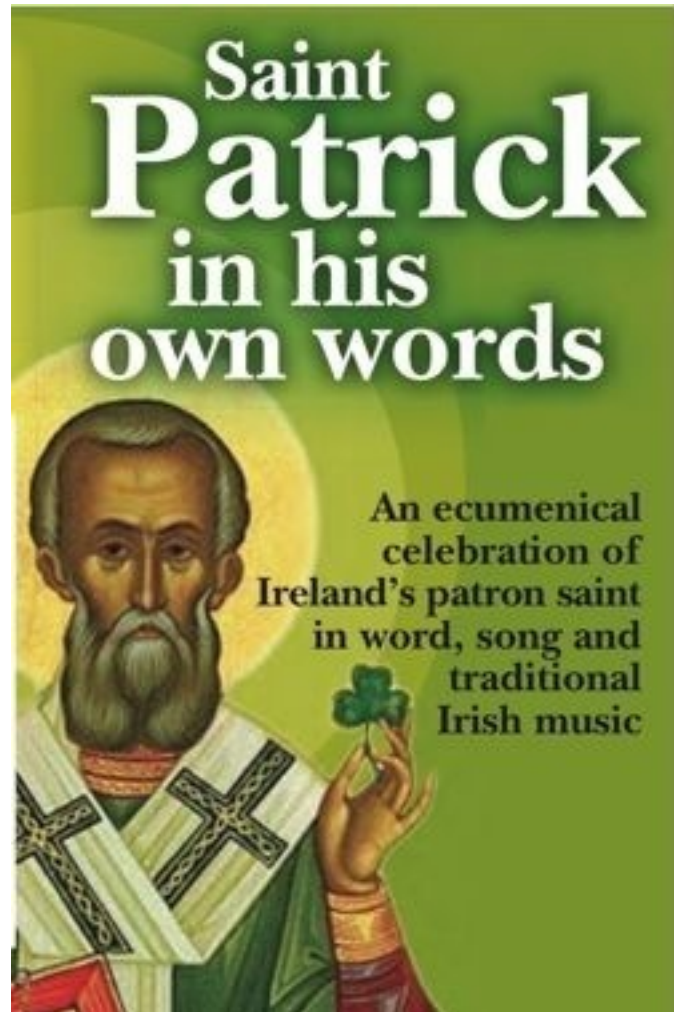
Church in Wales and C of E launch tweeting outreach

ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION OF ST PATRICK

Dublin Council of Churches is holding an ecumenical celebration of the life of St Patrick on St Patrick's Day at 6.00 pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

St Patrick in his own words will celebrate Ireland's patron saint in word and song, in Irish music, traditional and modern.

Irish music composed for and inspired by St Patrick's words will be performed by harpist Claire O'Donnell and the Kylemore Harp Ensemble, by Fionn O hAlmhainn on the uilleann pipes, Tomás Ó Dálaigh on the fiddle and others.



Dom Mark Ephrem Nolan, Abbot of Holy Cross Abbey, Rostrevor, Co Down will address the gathering.

The celebration is organised by the Dublin Council of Churches, which is made up of 11 different Christian denominations from the Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions. Its main aim is to facilitate and explore ways of expressing our common faith together. See

www.dublinchurches.ie, www.facebook.com/dublinchurches for more details.



PCI KIDS' BIG DAY OUT

After the success of last year's Kids' Big Day Out, it is on again!

The event is similar to a Holiday Bible club programme with time altogether as a big group and time in separate zones with games, prayer, music, craft and other activities where the kids will get to explore the Easter story as we journey through the last week of Jesus' life together.

The event will take place in Wellington Presbyterian Church in Ballymena again this year which has the flexibility and space for parking cars, mini buses and coaches as well as holding an event like this.

Kids' Big Day Out will start at 1.45pm and finish around 4.00pm. We will provide space within the church complex for any group who would like to bring their own packed lunch to have beforehand. There will be a hall set aside for this from 12.30 pm. Please let us know when you are booking if you would like to avail of that space.

We have also provided some ideas of other activities in the area that you may want to make use of before coming to the Kids' Big Day Out if you are using the day for a Sunday school outing.

Please note that children must currently be in P1–P7 to take part in the event and it is the responsibility of each group to ensure you have the appropriate number of leaders in line with PCI's Taking Care policy.

[Download a Booking Form](#) which includes a list of additional ideas if you wanted to build an outing around the event.

"Kids' Crew Volunteers

We are planning to have a '**Kids' Crew**' made up of volunteers (aged 14+) to help with the programme and the zones on the day. Please make this known

in your congregation and if there are any folk who would like to help, please download the [Kids' Crew Volunteer Form](#) and ask them to fill it in and return it to the Youth and Children's Office.

There are lots of spaces available for the Kids' Big Day Out and we are happy for groups or families to come and join us for the afternoon.

We believe this event would make for an extra special Sunday School or Kids' Club outing in 2014.

I do hope your group will be able to join us for what promises to be a great day!

<http://www.presbyterianireland.org/Training-Events/Events/Kids-Big-Day-Out?eventType=2>



BELFAST CG CHOIR AT SHANKILL, LURGAN TO MARK WORLD WATER DAY

Experience the joy, passion and energy of the amazing Belfast Gospel Choir in Shankill Parish Church, Lurgan on 22 March 2014.

Led by their charismatic Director, Marie Lacey, Belfast Community Gospel Choir (BCGC) is one of

Northern Ireland's most sought-after musical groups. The Choir has performed for the Queen, at the Titanic opening, as well as at scores of festivals, weddings and charitable events.

During the concert, Marie Lacey and local journalist Will Leitch will share inspiring stories of the incredible change they saw in the lives of people who were able to access clean water for the first time.

There will also be an opportunity to see Tearfund's inspiring film featuring Olympic Rower Peter Chambers and Bishop Harold Miller as they race up the spiral staircase of Victoria Square shopping centre with a 20kg jerry-can.

As the concert marks World Water Day, proceeds from it will go to help hundreds of people access clean water around the world. You can find more about Tearfund's One Big Mountain campaign, featuring a powerful film with Olympic Medalists Peter and Richard Chambers, to provide clean water for thousands of people [here](#).

Tickets £12.00 and concession £10.00

PORTADOWN PREPARED FOR WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual Women's World Day of Prayer service takes place next Friday, March 7 in Seagoe Church of Ireland at 8pm.



Portadown Times - Women from more than a dozen churches in Portadown will join with Christian women from over 170 countries in a great wave of prayer.

This year's theme is 'Streams in the Desert' and the speaker will be Canon Raj Sathyaraj, who is currently working alongside the Rev Terrance Cadden in Seagoe Parish.

Canon Sathyaraj was born in South India but worked in Egypt for 10 years, where he saw a tiny Anglican congregation grow into a thriving church.

The service has been prepared by Christian women from Egypt and will be an opportunity to pray for peace in a nation that has known great suffering and trouble since the uprising in 2011. All are welcome.

WATER - THEME OF TROCAIRE'S LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2014

This year's Trócaire Lenten campaign is about the global water crisis. There are 1.1 billion people in our world who are living without access to a reliable source of water. Nine year old Enestina Muyeye (pictured above), the young girl featured on this year's Trócaire box, comes from a small rural community in Dedza, central Malawi. Enestina's community has relied for years on a contaminated river for drinking water, washing and irrigation. Trócaire, working in partnership with the Catholic Church in Malawi, has recently installed a drinking water pump and is working to support people in this strong and vibrant community as they strive to improve their lives.

Across the developing world Trócaire is addressing the serious impact of water scarcity by helping people to access safe water for drinking, sanitation and irrigation. This work is made possible through the generous support of parishes across Ireland, which is greatly appreciated.

TROCAIRE
Working for a Just World



Please bring home a Trócaire Box
this Lent



To find out more about Trócaire's Lenten campaign visit www.trocaire.org/lent and please bring home a Trócaire box this Lent.

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CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF DISCOVERY GOSPEL CHOIR

Christ Church Cathedral will play host to the [Discovery Gospel Choir](#) on Saturday, 15th March, for their concert, 'Home', to celebrate the much-loved choir's tenth anniversary.

Formed in 2004, Discovery Gospel Choir has a strong ethos of reconciliation, development and integration and is made up of 30 singers and musicians from 16 countries spanning four continents. The choir is known for its infectious energy and colourful costumes, and has gained a reputation as Ireland's leading intercultural choir over the past decade. Their anniversary concert will serve as a reminder of their multicultural roots, with the repertoire including pieces from as far afield as South Africa, Mauritius, Romania and Haiti, as well as a number of more traditional Irish pieces by well-known Irish composers Seán Ó Riada and Seán Davey. Discovery Gospel Choir will be joined on the night by special guests, Congolese guitarist Niwel Tsumbu and Norwegian ensemble Drøbak Gospel.

Tickets are €12 (€10 concession) and they are available from entertainment.ie

EBM's HOSFORD PROJECT WINS CIVIC AWARD

The Methodist Church's East Belfast Mission Hosford has received an award from the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) at their annual awards ceremony at City Hall. These are the most important housing awards in Northern Ireland.



They received the 'More Than Bricks and Mortar' award for the extra support and projects which they have developed and for their inclusion of clients in the service. This includes the daily work of supporting people who are homeless to deal with their problems, to find their own home, and to maintain their independence. It also includes the projects that they have set up: NI Street League, Going Green, Art Group, Root Soup, History Group, and more.

Hosford would like to thank all the staff who worked hard to improve the service, develop new projects, and show a commitment to making a difference in the lives of the people they work with. Well done to all concerned!

The CIH Annual Housing Awards have become a kitemark of excellence in the housing sector, spanning private, public and voluntary activities. The Awards this year were sponsored by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The 'More Than Bricks and Mortar' award seeks to recognise those organisations who have demonstrated commitment to tenant empowerment and to improving their opportunities for involvement.

NEW REFRESH CAFE IN BELFAST

Please share the news of the new refresh café with anyone you feel may wish to support it.

The cafe is situated in the 174 Trust building, formerly a Presbyterian Church, on the Antrim Road Belfast. 174 Trust is a community organisation with many projects and events happening every day.

LECTURE - ROLE OF TIME IN CONFLICT AND PEACE PROCESSES

This lecture by Professor Luc Reyckler (University of Leuven) draws attention to the role of time in conflict and peace building.

Wednesday 12 March 2014-02-27 at 6.00 p.m. In The Neill / Hoey Theatre, Trinity Long Room Hub
TLRH in association with the School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics.



CLONARD UNITY PILGRIMS

The Clonard Unity Pilgrims go every Sunday of the year to be with a Protestant congregation for their Morning Service.

Gladys Ganiel writes - The visits are always arranged in advance with the minister of the chosen congregation to make sure the proposed Sunday is acceptable. The pilgrims ask nothing more than the privilege of being with a congregation in faith and friendship at their Morning Service.

“We receive a generous and warm welcome each week and have found that after a few visits to the same congregation, new opportunities for friendship and dialogue emerge. We seek to find our unity in Christ and share in an exchange of gifts for one another.”

The pilgrims meet weekly for an Inter-Church Bible reflection and for an hour of silent prayer for the unity of Christians and for peace across our communities.

The Unity Pilgrims are among the more well-known Christian peace activists, being featured or mentioned in books such as Ronald Wells' [*Hope and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland*](#) and [*Friendship Towards Peace*](#), and in [this radio documentary by Barbara Walshe](#), among other places.

– Contact: Ed Peterson, ejp@clonard.com

ST PATRICKS FESTIVAL AT CC DUBLIN

Once again Christ Church Cathedral is a place to be on Saint Patrick's weekend with a host of activities for all age groups!



“Events will include **tours, traditional music, face-painting and Céilís**

that will be sure to capture the imagination of all. This year we are delighted to welcome back **Cairde Rince Céilí na hÉireann** for our fantastic '*Céilí in the Crypt*', featuring a host of different jigs and reels. You don't have to be Jean Butler or Michael Flatley to be part of this wonderful celebration of traditional Irish dancing in the oldest venue in Dublin. Participation is included in the price of admission.

“[Discovery Gospel Choir](#) will also join us with their energetic world music! While outside on the Cathedral grounds, join the 'craic agus ceol' with live music and food stalls. The **Irish Village Markets** return again this year with an impressive array of homemade and gourmet food on the Grounds of Christ Church Cathedral. Featuring stalls from *Kerala Kitchen, Ali - Falafels, Is Maith Loim Coffee and Kanum Thai*, this popular market will make sure no one goes hungry this Patrick's Weekend.”

This will be a true celebration of Irish culture in the heart of Dublin's city centre with music, craft and food not to be missed. For more information - www.christchurchdublin.ie



SEAGOE CGB WIN UNIHOC GOLD

Seagoe Church Girls Brigade had a very successful night at the Brigade's Indoor Hockey Competition which was held at the Lisburn Leisureplex.

here was a better entry than in previous years with nearly thirty teams taking part across the various age groups.

In Group A, which is for children up to and including Primary Six, it was teams from the Dobbin, that led the way, taking home Gold medals in both lads' and girls' competitions.

Not to be outdone, Seagoe C.G.B. also took took Gold in two age groups, in the girls' Groups B (13 years) and C (16 years). Magheragall and Ballinderry were the winners in the lads' Groups B and C respectively.

The Brigade's next competition is its 5 a Side Football Championship held at the Laurelhill Sports Arena in Lisburn on Saturday 22 March from 7.00 pm.

CHURCH IN WALES LENTEN TWEET

Churchgoers across Wales are being invited to see in #2020Vision this Lent.

They are being asked to take a fresh look at changes happening in their churches and spread the good news through Twitter.

They will use the hashtag #2020Vision – 2020 Vision is the Church in Wales' strategy for growth as it approaches its centenary in six years' time.

Every day in Lent, which starts tomorrow (Wednesday) and continues to Easter Sunday, @ChurchinWales will tweet news and comments from around the Church's six dioceses about how 2020 Vision is making a difference. All the tweets will be in Welsh and English and everyone is invited to join in, respond or just re-tweet.

The Bishop of Bangor, Andy John, who is on the 2020 Vision strategy group, said, "We want people to share ideas about change that is happening in their churches and enthuse and inspire each other. Tweeting is a great and easy way to do this and helps spread the news about 2020 Vision. Lent is a good time to do it as it is traditionally a time of reflection.

"There are lots of ways in which people can contribute – they can tweet about things that have worked well or not so well, ask for prayers for people taking on new roles, invite others to be part of something new or simply express hope for the future. All these thoughts will then be linked together through the hashtag #2020Vision and hopefully by Easter we'll have helped spread the word about the changes the Church in Wales is embarking on."

You can find out more about 2020 Vision at <http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/review/>

THE C of E IN 140 CHARACTERS DAILY @OurCofE

The Church of England is launching a year long project on Twitter to tell the story of the Church of England through the eyes of its people, providing a daily insight into modern faith in action.

The Project - @OurCofE - will be launched on 3rd March 2014 where over the course of a year, bishops, clergy, chaplains, youth workers and churchgoers from around the country will be given a week each to tweet about their life inside the Church of England.

The project is inspired by similar twitter accounts such as @sweden which was set up by the Swedish tourist board who invited people to take turns in tweeting their life in Sweden for a week, each with their own unique view of the country.

Followers of the account will be given an insight into all the work that goes on into the day to day running of a church community from schools to chaplaincies to cathedrals. Followers will be able to peek behind the scenes as they get a feel for daily life in parishes. Tweets will come from a diverse group of people including Bishops, Vicars, volunteers, youth workers, chaplains and worshippers from across the Church.

Speaking ahead of the launch Claire Diaz-Ortiz, Head of Social Innovation at Twitter, said:

"The incredible engagement levels we see on religious tweets the world over prove the power of 140 characters to convey hope, motivation, and

inspiration. The @OurCofE Twitter account will build on this by telling the story of the Church of England through the eyes of its people, providing a fascinating insight into modern faith in action. Spanning great cathedrals to tiny parishes, it will provide real-time glimpses into the workings of the church for followers across the world, 140 characters at a time."

The Revd. Jeremy Fletcher, one of the 52 weekly tweeters for the year, and the Vicar of Beverley Minster said: "Being a parish priest is one of the most varied jobs anyone could have. From one hour to the next you can be with people in their best and worst experiences. No two days are the same. I want to tweet about it to let people know what it's like doing what I do, and about the fantastic people and organisations who welcome the church's involvement."

The Revd. Kate Bottley, A vicar and FE college chaplain from North Nottinghamshire, another of the weekly tweeters said: "I'm really excited to be asked to be part of the Church of England's @OurCofE twitter project. The project provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate the rich diversity of life in the Church of England. It's great to think that these tweets might paint a colourful picture of the day to day runnings of the Church of England. From Morning prayer to afternoon tea, Our Fathers to mother unions, from food festivals to food banks, this Twitter project gives a glimpse at the glorious diversity that is the life of the Church of England, will 140 characters be enough? I can't wait to get started."

@OurCofE Twitter account - <https://twitter.com/OurCofE>