



Image of the day - Just visiting

News Reports

'Saving the parish' and church planting must go hand in hand - Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has tried to reconcile Anglican 'save the parish' traditionalists and ambitious church planters at the C of E General Synod meeting this week.

In his presidential address, he told members of the Church of England's legislative body, "To save the parish does not mean to stop church planting. To church plant does not mean abandoning the parish. Far from it.

"If we take either of those binary decisions we will lose all of them. We will fail completely in every respect."

General Synod is meeting at Church House, Westminster, this week for its new five-year term after October's record-turnout elections.

Archbishop Welby pointed out that the number of regular churchgoers "has shrunk in absolute terms every year since around 1952", as he appealed to Synod members to embrace change.

"As a percentage of the population of England, the Church of England was at its high point, when there were accurate



records, in the 1851 census when we were about 20 per cent of the population, roughly a couple of percentage points less than what were then called the non-Conformist churches.

"We are today around about a little less than two per cent of the population," he said.

He continued: "Institutionally, in the intervening years since 1851, we have gone through waves of change. And while we are currently in the midst of such a wave, and this Synod will be crucial in how we ride that wave and how we are shaped by it, in each one there has been a fear that we would lose our tradition, our history, our past.

"But change is not, must not be, cannot be, should not be, will not be, abandonment of our past."

November 19, 2021

Archbishop Welby also issued a statement about the recent controversy over the Anglican Church in Ghana's stance on its government's anti-LGBT bill.

"While not condoning same-sex marriage, the Anglican Church in Ghana does not condone the criminalisation of the LGBTQ+ community," he said.

After his statement, LGBT activists on Synod including Jayne Ozanne stood up waving rainbow flags and wearing signs around their necks saying 'Soon to be imprisonable in Ghana'.

Questions from Synod members reflected the deep divisions in the CofE over sexual morality. Members submitted written questions in advance of the sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday but had an opportunity to put supplementary questions in person on Tuesday evening.

Philip Baldwin, a lay member from London Diocese, asked the Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally, who is leading the CofE's current Living in Love and Faith consultation on marriage, sexuality and gender:

"Please can you outline what measures are in place to safeguard LGBTQ+ people engaged with the Living in Love and Faith process, including in relation to abuse directed to Synod members?"

Bishop Mullally replied in a written answer: "It is unacceptable for people to be abused as a result of engaging with Living in Love and Faith."

November 19, 2021

Safeguarding measures included "support through LLF chaplains in many dioceses" and "the LLF Enabling Officer, who can be contacted, especially regarding abuse targeted at Synod members," Bishop Mullally wrote.

Synod members are meeting in person for the first time since the start of the Covid pandemic.

In other business, they overwhelmingly passed a motion moved by the Bishop of Sheffield, Dr Pete Wilcox, setting out "to give dioceses more freedom to be generous with their historic wealth to other dioceses in the Church of England, and in this way enable a more equitable sharing of this wealth".

It is hoped that the measure will help to ensure the survival of struggling parishes.

The Queen's message to C of E General Synod: the Gospel 'has brought hope' amid pandemic

In a message to the opening session of the 11th General Synod of the Church of England on Nov. 16, Her Majesty described the pandemic as a period of "of anxiety, of grief, and of weariness".

The Queen noted how it had been particularly hard for people of faith, with unprecedented restrictions on public worship, but that the Church had adapted and continued its ministry, including in new ways such as digital worship.

November 19, 2021

The message was delivered by His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex who attended the inaugural session of the new Synod, which was elected earlier this autumn, on behalf of The Queen.

Her Majesty, who is Supreme Governor of the Church of England, also highlighted the “weighty responsibilities” and “difficult decisions” facing the members of Synod over their five-year term.

Yet through it all, The Queen said she hoped they would be “strengthened with the certainty of the love of God, as you work together and draw on the Church’s tradition of unity in fellowship for the tasks ahead.”

‘Safe, humane and dignified’ treatment sought for refugees and people seeking asylum C of I synod group

The Inter Faith Working Group, one of the working groups of the Church of Ireland’s Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, has this week highlighted the need for ‘safe, humane and dignified treatment of refugees and those seeking asylum.’

The group seeks to engage with and to be sensitive to a variety of faith groups present on the island of Ireland, listening to their needs and concerns, their hopes and their fears.



It is both a learning group, and a listening group, sensitive to the voices of faith communities that seek good relationships with their Christian neighbours and friends.

The group says that in recent weeks, it has received ‘A call for safe, humane and dignified treatment of refugees and those seeking asylum,’ issued by the Faith Communities Forum of the Inter Faith Network for the UK.

With the support of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, the group seeks to draw this statement to the attention of all sections of the Church of Ireland and the wider Church on the island of Ireland, in the prayerful hope that the voices of those concerned with the present plight of refugees in these islands will be heard prayerfully and in the hope of compassionate responses.

November 19, 2021

This Faith Communities Forum statement on response to refugees and asylum seekers, is as follows:

‘[Our globe is increasingly criss-crossed by journeys of people in often desperate pursuit of safety and sanctuary: adults and children in flight from war, tyranny, persecution and other evils or seeking a life free from extreme poverty, hunger and deprivation.

‘In a context where the UK and a number of other countries are looking at tightening borders and immigration laws, we call attention to the importance of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and to observance of this. There will be differing views on particular policies and their implementation and the factors that have to be taken into account. In all cases, however, the response should aim to reflect the best of our humanity.

‘It is, at this time, for example, a matter of deep concern to us that a policy of ‘push back’ of boats in the Channel has been adopted. Regardless of care taken in exercise of the policy, there would be significant dangers both to those “pushed back” and to the Border Force personnel called upon to implement it. We call upon the Government to seek alternative approaches to deal with the crossings.

‘The Inter Faith Network for the UK has, since its inception, worked to promote good inter faith relations, including through raising awareness of the common ground of the different faith communities, such as fundamental values that are shared. Among these values are those such as justice and compassion and the fundamental principle of treating others as we would ourselves be treated: the “golden rule”.

November 19, 2021

‘Drawing on the common values at the heart of our different and distinct faith traditions we call for safe, humane and dignified treatment of refugees and those seeking asylum.’

Christian Aid to halve emissions in bid to tackle the climate crisis

At the close of the COP26 climate change talks, international development charity Christian Aid announced plans to halve its carbon emissions by the end of the decade.

Patrick Watt, Director of Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns at Christian Aid, explained Christian Aid will “never shrink away from campaigning with others for climate justice” and will continue to “match our words with action and encourage others to join us.”

Christian Aid has measured and managed its greenhouse gas emissions for the last decade, and between April 2011 and March 2020 both the total carbon footprint and carbon intensity was reduced by more than half.

The charity’s report explains this was in part due to the success of their first decarbonisation plan, launched in 2017/2018, that changed ways of working, including greater use of renewable energy, less printing, and more use of teleconferencing.

Christian Aid has now set new targets of a 40% reduction in emissions from a 2019/20 baseline by 2023/24 and at least

November 19, 2021

a 50% reduction by 2029/30. This is in line with 2018 IPCC targets identified as necessary to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

As part of this plan, Christian Aid has agreed to minimise the post-pandemic flights bounce-back to no more than 50% of pre-pandemic levels alongside further reductions in printing footprint and greater use of local renewably-generated energy in offices.

Patrick Watt, Director of Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns at Christian Aid, said:

“The poorest people, who’ve contributed least to the climate crisis, are first and worst affected. It doesn't need to be this way.

“At Christian Aid, we recognise that the decisions we make as individuals, and as an organisation, affect the climate and generations to come.

“I am proud we have reduced our total carbon footprint and carbon intensity by more than half over the last decade. However, with the planet still warming, there is much more to do.

“Christian Aid will never shrink away from campaigning with others for climate justice, and calling for decisive action by governments, businesses and individuals to act.

“With a plan to halve the organisation's emissions by the end of the decade, we continue to match our words with action and encourage others to join us.”

November 19, 2021

People and places

Belfast parishioner in semi-final of BBC Songs of Praise Young Chorister of the Year' competition.



Rebekah Devlin has made it into the semi-final of the 2021 BBC Songs of Praise and Radio 2 'Young Chorister of the Year' competition.

November 19, 2021

Teenager Rebekah Devlin, a parishioner of All Saints', Belfast, has made it through to the semi-finals of the prestigious 2021 BBC Songs of Praise and Radio 2 'Young Chorister of the Year' competition.

Rebekah, 16, a pupil at Strathearn School, is the only singer from Northern Ireland to have reached the national semi-finals, winning her place in the girls' semi-final after competing against hundreds of entrants from across the UK. She is one of five girls seeking to secure a place in the national final.

Rebekah sings regularly with her church, and is a member of the Belfast Philharmonic Youth Chamber Choir, the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland and the Belfast School of Performing Arts. She also sings with her school's Chamber Choir.

The Songs of Praise girls' semi-final, scheduled to take place in Salisbury Cathedral and hosted by Aled Jones, will be broadcast on BBC1 television and on Radio 2, on Sunday November 21.

Who will make it through to the final? Watch on Sunday 21st November at 1.15pm on BBC One and afterwards for 30 days here

<http://bbc.in/3c6M3M8> #SongsOfPraise

17th Walk of Light takes place in Dublin this Sunday

Dublin Council of Churches' annual Walk of Light will take place in the city on Sunday November 21 starting at 4pm.

November 19, 2021

An Interchurch Pilgrimage
Walk of Light

ST ANN'S CHURCH - DAWSON STREET
NEWMAN UNIVERSITY CHURCH - ST STEPHEN'S GREEN
ADELAIDE RD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2021
Procession beginning at 4:00pm in St Ann's Church

*In cooperation with the local Church of Ireland,
Ethiopian Orthodox, Korean, Lutheran, Methodist,
Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic congregations*

DUBLIN
COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES

This is the 17th Walk of Light and will be a prayer for light in times of darkness. In the shadow of the global pandemic, this year's theme is 'In his name the nations will put their hope'.

The service will, as usual, take place across three churches: St Ann's in Dawson Street, Newman University Church on St

Stephen's Green and Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church. For the safety of all, only 15 people will actually walk from church to church and people are invited to attend the service in ONE church only, rather than all three.

As last year the Walk of Light will be recorded and the edited video will be released on the Dublin Council of Churches YouTube Channel on 1st Sunday in Advent.

November 19, 2021

The Walk of Light will begin at St Ann's at 4pm. It will continue at Newman University Church at 4.45pm and conclude at Adelaide Road Presbyterian at 5.45pm.

This year's chosen charity will be Merchants Quay Ireland. Any donations received will go towards its work.

Can you spot the Curate's model?



From this week's Funday Club in All Saint's, Antrim. It doesn't matter whether you are big or small, young or old. The Lord has time for you and all the love you could ever need.

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Updated Covid19 Guidelines for Places of Public Worship in Republic

The previous update was issued on 16th September. There has been a complete review and the updated guidelines are now online:

https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/placesofworshipguidance/COVID_religious%20settings.pdf

Muckamore Parish Development Association provides a real hub in Ballycraigy estate

Muckamore Parish Development Association (MPDA) has moved into purpose-built premises in the heart of the Ballycraigy Estate outside Antrim, and is reaching out into the local community.

The not-for-profit charity was established in 2008, and since then has worked to enable people of all ages to cope with adversity and reach their full potential.

This new community hub is a place for families to meet, socialise, and avail of training, advice and other support.

Family Support Work Kim Dunne lives on the estate, and knows the difficulties facing local families. MPDA proves



Having an 'epic' time at the Muckamore Parish Development Association community hub in Ballycraigy!

support with issues such as financial hardship, domestic violence, parenting issues, childcare, and managing mental health and wellbeing. It also works with the local foodbank to provide practical help on site.

During the Covid-19 lockdowns, MPDA continued to work in the community, making contact with families by telephone or at the garden fence, delivering foodpacks and providing physical activities for children where garden space permitted.

In the community hub in Ballycraigy on a Thursday afternoon it is bustling with children enjoying the fun and games offered at the after school clubs. These have proved so popular the group is also using the nearby community

November 19, 2021

centre hall to accommodate all the children wanting to join in the multi-sports led by Sports Youth Worker Daniel Carlisle. There was also dinner for the kids, who, as our photo gallery shows, were all having a great time.

In the spring issue of the diocesan magazine Connor Connections, which will be available in February, there will be an in-depth look at the huge impact MPDA is having in the community and its plans for the future.

MU Black on Thursdays

My name is Myrtle Nairn, Diocesan President of former Tuam, Killala & Achonry. I wear black on Thursdays in sympathy for those who have lost loved ones due to domestic violence and, also, in solidarity with



current victims who are struggling and may feel isolated, as

November 19, 2021

well as for survivors of such abuse, in order to give support to their right for a safe existence in this world.

Tobermore's Christmas Fest

Tobermore beckons later this month as members of Kilcronaghan Parish finalise plans for their eagerly anticipated four-day, festive event.

The parishioners plan to use handcrafted creative pieces to 'tell' The

Christmas Story in Kilcronaghan Parish Church. The event will be open on Thursday 25th November from 11am-8pm; Friday 26th November, from 12 noon-8pm; Saturday 27th November from 11am-7pm; and Sunday 28th November from 3-6pm.

There will be a closing service at 6.30pm on the Sunday, with favourite Christmas carols. How can you resist?

The Christmas Story

Telling the Christmas story through various handcrafted creative pieces.

Thursday 25th - Sunday 28th
November 2021

Kilcronaghan Parish Church
3 Wood Road, Tobermore,
Magherafelt, BT45 5QJ

Thursday	11am - 8pm
Friday	12pm - 8pm
Saturday	11am - 7pm
Sunday	3pm - 6pm

Followed by a Closing Service @ 6.30pm
with Favourite Christmas Carols

Morning coffee and afternoon tea available Thursday - Saturday.
Afternoon tea available Sunday 3pm - 5pm

Note: Booking essential for group catering

Jennifer Evans (Catering) ☎ 028 796 42766 ✉ jennifer.evans1964@gmail.com
Hilary Richardson (Organist) ☎ 07791545190 ✉ hilary473@btinternet.com

November 19, 2021

**Webinars,
music,
resources,
broadcasts
and books**

SAMS Advent resource

South American Mission Society (SAMS) Ireland is delighted to announce the publication of an Advent resource booklet. The resource

contains 10 creative lesson plans with activities aimed at primary school aged children. There are also some ideas for presentations in other settings and some of the ideas incorporated in the booklet could be used at other times of the year, not just at Advent. The content of the activities encourages participants to be aware of mission within the world, particularly in South America. The resource can be used in many settings including churches, schools and at home.



November 19, 2021

Further information can be obtained by emailing office@samsireland.com or by phoning 02838310144.

Sharing the Good News November issue

The November issue of Sharing the Good News, the Catholic bishops newsletter for parishes and dioceses, is now available.

The November issue features the following articles:

Archbishop Eamon Martin's homily from the Mass of Remembrance in Knock Shrine

Pope Francis' appointment of Bishop Francis Duffy as Archbishop of Tuam

Trócaire's launch of their life-saving Gifts of Love for Christmas 2021

Archbishop Dermot Farrell's homily at opening of the Academic Year at DCU

Dr Nicola Brady recognised by the Irish Council of Churches and by the Irish Inter- Church Meeting

Deadline extended for the first phase of the synodal process

Bishop Martin Hayes' attendance at COP26 climate summit

Bishops' online interactive calendar going live on Sunday 28 November

If you would like to receive the newsletter into your inbox each month please send an email to info@catholicbishops.ie with 'Sharing the Good News subscription' as the subject line.

Podcast #46: Let's talk about the parents as disciple makers

Christian parents who want to actively help their children follow Jesus may find that this role changes as their family gets older.

In this episode, Dr. Gareth Crispin (Cliff College, England and father of 3) and Gillian Spiers (mum of 4 from 1st Dromara Presbyterian) are in conversation with Graeme Thompson (PCI Youth Development Officer) about how parents can disciple their young people.

They discuss the privileges and challenges of parenting, the daily patterns and habits of Christian families and how they can partner with the church in this critical process.

Some of the resources mentioned in the discussion are:

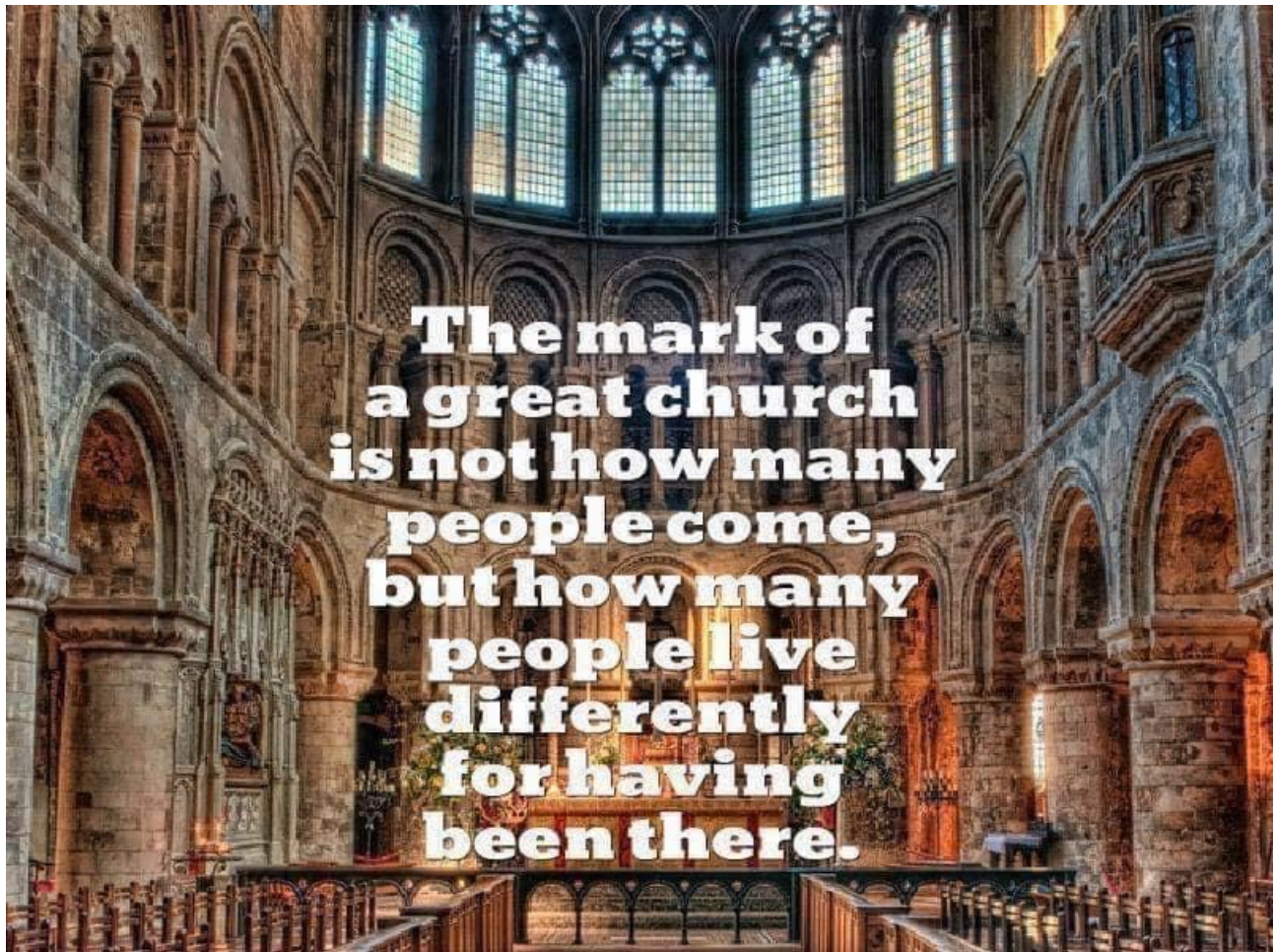
- “Together with God: An Introduction to Family Worship” (2016) Gareth Crispin & Ed Mackenzie
- “The Generative Church” (2019) Cory Seibel (Ed) – Chap. 4 “The Relationship between Church and Home” (Gareth Crispin)
- The One Conversation Model (by Axis)
- “The Pop Culture Parent: Helping Kids Engage Their World for Christ” (2020) Ted Turnau

November 19, 2021

Listen wherever you get your podcasts from or via:

<https://audioboom.com/channels/5019668>

Perspective



Poem for today There Will Be A Talking by Michael Hartnett

There will be a talking of lovely things
there will be cognizance of the seasons,
there will be men who know the flights of birds,
in new days there will be love for women:

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

November 19, 2021

we will walk the balance of artistry.
And things will have a middle and an end,
and be loved because being beautiful.
Who in a walk will find a lasting vase
depicting dance and hold it in his hands
and sell it then? No man on the new earth
will barter with malice nor make of stone
a hollowed riddle: for art will be art,
the freak, the rare no longer commonplace:
there will be a going back to the laws.

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org

