

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

First page photo - Mothers Union President (right), members and the Mayor of Armagh. Photo below - Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev John McDowell greets members in Armagh City Hotel.



Mothers' Union Getaway Weekend

Thanks to Debbie Davidson who posted a wonderful range of photographs of the event with the following covering comment -

Sharing our wonderful weekend with you all....Mothers' Union really do know how to enjoy themselves....Faith,

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Fellowship,
Fun, Food &
Friendships....

Thanks to
everyone who
joined us for
The Getaway
Weekend...

The ladies
arrived for the
first evening

of the All Ireland Women's Getaway in Armagh City Hotel
with their Guest Speaker, Ruth Garvey-Williams.





After registration and checking into their rooms, the ladies made their way to the Palace Demesne for a Reception by the Lord Mayor Sarah Duffy of ABC Council.



Then they made their way back to Armagh City Hotel for their Evening Meal, a Getting to know our Speaker session, followed by a Mini Big Hymn Sing led by Ven Dr Stephen McBride, All Ireland Chaplain and an Epilogue led by The Most Reverend John McDowell.

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The Conference continued on Saturday morning when the overnights were joined by more ladies from across Ireland.

News



Floating their boat

Beautiful wedding at Coleraine Port last week... congratulations to the bride and groom. Photo by Ships on the Bann

Ralph the official referee

The Year 9 games period had a bit of extra excitement as a couple of special guests made an appearance,

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including none other than Dalriada School Principal, Mrs. Aitcheson.

But the spotlight was stolen by a very special visitor - Dean Shiels, manager of Coleraine FC, who joined in the fun.

Dean had a heartfelt reason for attending: he came to present Year 9 pupil and passionate Coleraine supporter, Ralph McCooke, with a referee's shirt. Ralph, a familiar face at the Monday afternoon football sessions, has taken on the role of official referee, equipped with his trusty electronic whistle and, of course, the all-important red and yellow cards!





Ralph's passion for the game has earned him a unique role in the school, and he isn't on this journey alone. Year 14

pupil Craig Newton, who completed his referee course at Dalriada two years ago, has now been officially appointed as Ralph's coach and mentor. Together, they're ensuring every Monday's game runs smoothly—and having a lot of fun while they're at it!



Anglican delegation to attend COP16 in Colombia

An Anglican delegation, led by Bishop Graham Usher, will attend COP16 in Colombia from October 21 to November 1.

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They will share Anglican calls for urgent action on nature loss and demonstrate the power of faith groups in achieving change. The delegation includes youth and indigenous representatives from across the globe.

The Anglican Communion has outlined five key areas for joint action, including reforestation, peace and reconciliation



Bishop Graham Usher

work, and supporting indigenous voices in biodiversity restoration.

Read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/406mllk>

As we approach COP16, we invite you to learn more about the Anglican commitment to tackling biodiversity loss: <http://anglicancommunion.org/COP16>

Churches in the UK save the NHS £8.4 billion a year

Church Times - Churches in the UK save the NHS an estimated £8.4 billion a year -- through the provision of foodbanks, drug- and alcohol-addiction support, mental-health counselling, and youth groups, a new study suggests



At the Synod in Rome

Bishop Alan McGuigan of Down & Connor at the synod in Rome last week. He's pictured here with Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP who gave the synod retreat and will shortly be made a cardinal by Pope Francis.

Church Army's new CEO

Church Army has announced that Matt Barlow has been appointed as its new CEO, bringing with him over 30 years of leadership experience in charity and ministry.

Matt joins the Church Army from Mary's Meals and prior to that served for 21 years at Christians Against Poverty, 14 of those as CEO.

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"I'm humbled and excited to be invited to step into the leadership of Church Army. It is a privilege to join in with this long and storied history of combining faith and deeds."

At a time when life is incredibly hard and bleak for so many, I'm looking forward to playing my part in seeing many people helped out of their troubles and given the chance to experience the God who loves them," says Matt.

As we continue our mission to support those on the margins, Matt's vision and leadership will be vital in helping us share the good news of the gospel.



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Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford and Chair of the Board of Trustees says:

I and the entire Board of Trustees are delighted to have Matt join Church Army. Through the process of application and interview Matt's passion for the people we serve, his profoundly lived faith and the depth of his experience shone through. Our work to support those on the margins has never been more needed or so challenging. I believe that Matt will significantly strengthen the Church Army team across this vital next season.

Matt will start at Church Army on 5th November. We look forward to what the future holds under his leadership. Read more here: (<https://churcharmy.org/ceonews/>)

About Church Army - Church Army believes every person has an inherent, God-given dignity and worth. We are an army of hope, training and empowering people to transform their communities through faith shared in word and action.

Pope welcomes Ukrainian President Zelensky to Vatican

Pope Francis welcomed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to the Vatican for the third time on Friday last.

During their 35 minute long meeting the Holy Father particularly expressed his concern at the suffering of Ukrainian children - so many of whom have lost the ability to smile.

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This was their fourth encounter, after a bilateral meeting on June 14 on the sidelines of the G7 in the Puglia region of Italy and meetings in the Vatican on May 13, 2023, and, prior to the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, on February 8, 2020.

According to a statement issued by the Holy See Press Office, the talks in the Secretariat of State were devoted "to the state of the war and the humanitarian situation in Ukraine," as well as "the ways that could put an end to it, leading to a just and stable peace in the country."

The statement also said: "a number of issues concerning religious life in the country were also examined."

Afterwards, President Zelensky met with Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States and International Organizations, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher.

After the meeting, in a post on X, Pope Francis wrote: "All nations have the right to exist in peace and security. Their territories must not be attacked, and their sovereignty" must be respected and guaranteed through peace and dialogue. War and hatred bring only death and destruction for everyone."

During the meeting the two leaders exchanged gifts, and the Pope exchanged greetings with the delegation accompanying President Zelensky. The Ukrainian President gave Pope Francis an oil painting, entitled 'The Bucha Massacre. The Story of Marichka.'

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Pope Francis gave President Zelensky a bronze casting of a flower engraved with the inscription: 'Peace is a fragile flower.'

The Pope also gave the President this year's Message for Peace, several papal documents, the book on the 27 March 2020 *Statio Orbis*, edited by the Vatican Publishing House, as well as the volume 'Persecuted for Truth, Ukrainian Greek Catholics Behind the Iron Curtain.'

Pope Francis has made countless appeals for an end to the war and the suffering since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and has offered the Holy See's availability to help in any way to work toward peace. The Holy Father has also sent delegates and envoys delivering ambulances, medical supplies, and aid to the suffering nation.

Cathedral Calls

MU visit to St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare

This Friday 18th October, there will be a warm welcome to the cathedral of a delegation from the Mothers' Union.

The visitors will include Ish Lennox (MU Faith and Church Relations Manager) and June Butler (All Ireland MU President). All are welcome to the midday service.

Live stream from St Mary's Limerick

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The livestream from the Cathedral is available at www.churchservices.tv/limerickstmarys.

The weekly news sheet may also be found as well as a large resource of recorded services.



Gaia at Southwark Cathedral opens Thursday 17 October

The final countdown to the arrival of Luke Jerram's Gaia is underway.

Tickets for all the cathedral's climate justice events are available here: bit.ly/3McH0fk

Handel's Messiah under St Paul's iconic dome

Experience the unforgettable magic of Handel's Messiah performed under St Paul's iconic dome by their

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world-renowned choir, the Cathedral Chorus, and the City of London Sinfonia.

Messiah is one of Handel's most famous and best-loved works. The rousing 'Hallelujah' Chorus is one of the most famous pieces of Baroque choral music. The performance will take place in the beautiful interior of St Paul's Cathedral under the iconic dome.

Tickets are priced at £15 for the Dome area, £10 for the Nave and Transepts, and are available to book now.

4th December 2024, 6:30pm - 9pm. Tickets:

<https://spctickets.stpauls.co.uk/webstore/shop/viewItems.aspx?cg=SPC&c=MES24>

Ripon commemorates bell ringings

“In a celebratory St Wilfrid weekend we dedicated four boards commemorating the ringing of our bells for our 1350th anniversary, The Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, The State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of King Charles III”

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Clergy and ministry



C of I tribute to Bishop Donal Murray

Bishop Michael Burrows writes - I have conveyed to Bishop Brendan Leahy my sympathy and that of our diocese on the death of Bishop Donal Murray.

Bishop Murray made a large and positive impact on so many aspects of church life in this part of Ireland. He was an administrator, a thinker, a gifted pastor and an ecumenist. He knew too of the travails of life, recognised his duty to make personally costly decisions, and acted with humility and grace in doing so.

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I came to know him well when he kindly acted as the Roman Catholic observer on our Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures some years ago. His interventions were scholarly, shrewd and good-humoured, offering a refreshing perspective on matters from episcopal elections to diocesan reconfiguration.

At my enthronement in Limerick in May 2022 Bishop Leahy gave me a copy of Bishop Murray's little devotional book 'What are we waiting for?' It sits constantly on my desk to this day. It is a study of our human pursuit of truth, beauty and goodness. It links me also to two godly bishops - its writer who wields his pen so gently and fluently, and its donor who gave his beloved predecessor such wonderful pastoral care during recent difficult years and amid declining health.

Again, my sympathy to the bishop, priests and people of the Roman Catholic diocese of Limerick at this time of parting.

Michael Burrows
Bishop of Tuam Limerick and Killaloe

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

**Scriptural Reasoning: Deepening our faith
and compassion**

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Scriptural Reasoning: an online event with the Interfaith Working Group and Dublin City Interfaith Forum on Tuesday 5 November at 7.30 pm

Scriptural Reasoning is a form of reading, listening to and reflecting on scripture from different religious traditions addressing a selected theme. This session of scriptural reasoning will focus on the theme of 'Compassion'.

Contributors for this event will come from the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths.

Our three contributors for this event are:



Jonathan Romain – Rabbi, writer and broadcaster
Dr Al Tawash – Dublin City Interfaith Forum
The Rev Dr Stephen Skuce – Methodist Church in Ireland

As part of the session, each contributor will be invited to give a brief introduction and reflection on their selected passage of scripture on the theme of 'Compassion'.

These introductions are intended to provide context to help other participants from different traditions who may not be familiar with the passage to enter into dialogue with the text.

After all three contributors have spoken, we will gather in smaller breakout rooms to discuss the three texts presented, giving equal time to each text. After the breakout rooms, we will re-gather in the main session for a short summing up and sharing from the different groups.

NB: Tickets for this event are divided into different faith groups. The purpose for this is not to exclude or limit participation, but rather to ensure that some diversity of representation will be possible across the discussion groups.

There is no limit on any of the tickets, and the listing is purely for the purpose of planning the breakout groups in advance.

To learn more about Scriptural Reasoning please visit: www.scripturalreasoning.org

This event is co-organised by the Church of Ireland Interfaith Working Group and the Dublin City Interfaith Forum, and tickets can be booked at this link on Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/scriptural-reasoning>

Contributors:

Jonathan Romain is the Convenor of the Reform Beit Din, the rabbinic court serving synagogues throughout the UK.

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He is Chaplain to the Jewish Police Association and President of the Accord Coalition (campaigning for inclusive education). His many books include *The Jews of England* and *Till Faith Us Do Part*; his latest book is *Confessions of a Rabbi* (Biteback).

Dr Al Tawash – Dublin City Interfaith Forum.

The Rev Dr Stephen Skuce is the North Western District Superintendent for the Methodist Church in Ireland. Dr Skuce previously worked with the British Methodist Church in a number of roles including Director of Research, Director of Global Relationships, and Academic Dean at Cliff College. He served as a mission partner in Sri Lanka and his published work includes *The Faiths of Ireland* (Columba, 2006).

In the media

First Irish visit of St Bernadette's relics to conclude in Athlone - Westmeath Independent

The holy relics of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes arrived in Ireland for the first time, and are being brought on a nationwide pilgrimage which will conclude in Athlone in early November.

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The saint's relics will journey, for the very first time, to each of the 26 dioceses on the island of Ireland.

The tour of the relics is scheduled to end with a visit to the Diocese of Elphin, where they will be displayed in Athlone's Church of Saints Peter and Paul from November 2-4.

A farewell ceremony, to end the Irish visit, will then take place in the Church of the Risen Christ, Kiltoom, on November 5.

Parist priest of the parish of Saints Peter and Paul, Fr John Deignan, was in Galway Cathedral on Thursday last for a welcoming ceremony to mark the arrival of the relics, which had been brought from the grotto in Lourdes earlier in the week.

Discussing the plans for the Athlone visit, Fr John said: "We will have the relics on public display for veneration from Saturday November 2, to Monday, November 4.

"The programme is not yet finalised, but it will include designated Mass and prayer times, as well as times of private veneration and prayer."

The Catholic Communications Office pointed out that countless Irish pilgrims had made the journey to the International Marian Shrine at Lourdes for the last 166 years, since the apparitions of Our Lady to Saint Bernadette in 1858.

"This year the people of Ireland will have the opportunity to welcome the spirit of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette to a

local church in their own home diocese," it said in a statement.

The Bishop of Elphin, Kevin Doran, commented: "There is a well-established tradition of people bringing religious objects home from Lourdes, to share with family members and friends.

"Many people are unable to travel on pilgrimage to Lourdes, but this year Lourdes will come to them, as the relics of Saint Bernadette make their way around Ireland.

"We hope that many people will be able to share in the blessings of the Pilgrimage, by gathering to pray with Saint Bernadette in cities and towns across the country."

The relics will also be displayed at Christ the King Cathedral, Mullingar, on October 21 and 22, during their visit to the Diocese of Meath.

Welcoming the visit of the relics, Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin said: "The pilgrimage around Ireland of Saint Bernadette's relics will be a source of hope, great joy and inspiration, especially for the many people of Ireland who have travelled to Lourdes over the years.

"Of course Lourdes is synonymous with care and love for sick and disabled persons and it is a special sanctuary for those who struggle with worries or decisions of one kind or another."

The full programme for the St Bernadette relic pilgrimage to Ireland can be found online, at: www.stbernadette.ie

Report by Adrian Cusack

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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