

Church News Ireland



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Season of Creation**

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Image of the day



New wooden altar celebrates Season of Creation

The Parish of Maghera in Newcastle, Co Down unveiled a new wooden altar at a mass celebrating the Season of Creation in the Sacred Garden, Bryansford.

The altar was fashioned by local farmer Damien Duggan from a fallen Sycamore tree in Tollymore Forest.

The Sacred Garden was designed by Angela Drayne and created by parish gardening volunteers and is maintained by the Parish Care for Creation gardening group.



The Mass was celebrated 'Sa nadur' in the garden beneath the Mourne mountains by Fr Paul Byrne. Read more and view their photos here <https://tinyurl.com/4n5ryvmt>.

News



King's Hospital Choir tradition at Dublin Annual Law Service

Those involved in the justice system were reminded at the Annual Law Service in St Michan's Church in Dublin on Monday morning (October 7) that that the vision of justice in this part of the world remained avowedly Christian).

Preaching at the service to mark the opening of the Michaelmas Law Term, the Revd Simon Doogan, Rector of Ballyholme Parish in Down and Dromore, said that definitions of guilt, the presumption of innocence, forms of



punishment and a host of other legal bulwarks flowed from the religion of Jesus Christ.



The service was led by the Vicar, Archdeacon David Pierpoint in the presence of the Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral.

The congregation included members of the judiciary,

departments of State, members of the legal profession, the diplomatic corps, representatives of an Garda Siochana, the Defence Forces and the Prison Service, and members of the Law Society.

As has been tradition for over a century, the choir of the King's Hospital, under the direction of Ciaran Kelly, led the music at the service.

Read more on website: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/10/07/the-ethics-and-ethos-of>

Connor Takes the Castle

Connor Takes the Castle returned to Castlewellaan Castle Christian Conference Centre at the weekend, with 130 young people from across the diocese enjoying worship, teaching, karaoke, sports and lots more.



Speaker at the sessions was Simon Henry, National Youth Officer with the CIYD, the Church of Ireland Youth Department.

Retired Clergy members visit Lewis 'country'

The Retired Clergy Association (Northern Ireland) recently held the first meeting of its

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autumn programme with a visit to St Mark's, Dundela, East Belfast, the only church in Ireland designed by William Butterfield, the eminent Victorian Gothic Revival Church architect who was closely associated with the Oxford Movement.

For some members of the RCA, the visit was a welcome return to St Mark's: the RCA chairman, Canon Jim Campbell, was rector there from 1995 to 2001; and for committee members, Canon Walter Lavery and the Revd Clifford Skillen, it represented a return 'home', as both had grown up in the parish.

Members were warmly welcomed by the rector of Dundela, Canon Dr Helene Steed, who presided at a celebration of Holy Communion, assisted by Canon Campbell who also led the intercessions.

Christian apologist

Following light refreshments, the Revd Mercia Flanagan, another RCA committee member, gave a talk on aspects of the life of C.S. Lewis, the writer, literary scholar and Anglican theologian widely regarded as one of the most influential Christian apologists of his time.

He was born in the parish in 1898 and spent his childhood years there. He was baptised in St Mark's by his maternal grandfather, the Revd Thomas Hamilton, the parish's first rector. Lewis and his brother, Warren (known as 'Warnie'), presented a window to the church in memory of their parents in 1935.



Pictured above: The Revd Mercia Flanagan with the Ven John Scott (left) and Canon Jim Campbell.

Taking as her title, 'The Seeker and the Sought', Mrs Flanagan noted and illustrated by means of a presentation a number of events and circumstances which challenged and influenced Lewis' life and beliefs, ranging from his unhappy childhood (his mother died from cancer when he was nine years old) and early education through to his university careers at Oxford and Cambridge.

She particularly highlighted the unfolding of his spiritual journey and the effect on his life of his abandoning during adolescence the Christianity in which he had been brought up and his return to Anglicanism in the early 1930s after a period of atheism.

Lewis died on 22 November 1963, though his death was almost completely overshadowed by news of the assassination of President Kennedy which occurred on the same day, as did the death of the writer, Aldous Huxley.

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The Ven John Scott, the RCA's honorary treasurer, presented Mrs Flanagan with a token of members' appreciation of her thoughtful and enlightening talk and Canon Campbell did likewise to Dr Steed for her hospitality and hard work in facilitating a very enjoyable meeting.

Report and photo by the Revd Clifford Skillen



Left to Right, Margaret Haddon, Margaret Whyte, David Mollan, and Norman Gibson.

Changes at Christ Church Kilmore

On Sunday morning morning at Christ Church Kilmore and Inch Parish Church, in Down and Dromore, parishioners were looking forward to Rev. Claire Alward's licencing and introduction on Thursday evening - tomorrow.

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They also recognised a very special lady who has been pivotal in keeping both churches thriving during this interregnum.

In addition to being the very public face of the parish during the last sixteen months, (Mrs) Margaret Whyte has continued to work tirelessly in the background providing spiritual and pastoral support for so many people.

A willing service rightly acknowledged.

Hey Cardinal, I've got your trousers!

Cardinal Nichols reflected on the Westminster roots of the Cardinal Hume Centre (CHC) and its founder, the late Cardinal Basil Hume, whose devotion to the homeless led to the creation of the charity.

The Cardinal recalled a story in which Cardinal Hume - known for his personal generosity in giving clothes and other items to rough sleepers - had been walking across the piazza outside Westminster Cathedral "when one of the homeless men there shouted out: 'Hey Cardinal, I've got your trousers!'"

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Cathedral Calls



Washington National Cathedral

“We paws-itively had a ball at this year's
Blessing of the Animals”



Cork choir support for Cahir

“It was great to have some of the choir from St Fin Barre’s Cathedral in Cork with us in St Paul’s Church, Cahir for harvest thanksgiving

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last night”.

At the service the recently restored organ, as well as hymnals and prayer books, were dedicated as memorial gifts. A full church with wonderful music and singing.

Clergy and ministry

Rector of St Brigid’s Church, Glengormley & Mallusk



The Rev Jacob Mercer was instituted as rector of St Brigid’s Church, Glengormley & Mallusk on Wednesday October 2. Jacob has been priest-in-charge of the parish since May 2022.

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The preacher at the Service of Institution was the Rev Dr Martyn Cowan, Vice Principal of Union Theological College, Belfast. More at <https://bit.ly/3zOZRKG>

Rural Dean for Coleraine

The Rev Brian Harper, rector of Dunluce Parish, has been appointed Rural Dean for Coleraine and Carey.

Brian was ordained in 1985, and is a former Archdeacon of Clogher. He has also served in St Columba's, Portadown; Drumglass Parish, Dungannon; Ballygawley, Errigle Keerogue and Killeshill; Mullavilly Parish in Tandragee and Magheracross Parish, Ballinamallard. Brian, who is married to Heather, said he was delighted to take on this role within the Rural Deanery.

Curate Assistant Dromore Cathedral



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On 14 October **Revd Geoff Hamilton** will join the team at Dromore Cathedral as part-time Curate Assistant
[@dromorecathedral1](#)

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Stanford's Irish Question - Stanford Festival lecture

Professor Harry White, University College Dublin, will deliver a lecture 'Stanford's Irish Question' in St Anne's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin, Saturday, 12 October 2024, 10.00am.

This is part of the Stanford Festival celebrating the centenary of Irish-born composer Charles Villiers Stanford's death

The title of this talk conflates two closely-related but distinct preoccupations in the life and work of Charles Villiers Stanford.

The first is well known, namely Stanford's antagonism towards the prospect of Home Rule for Ireland, which led him in 1910 to withdraw his most successful work by far, *Shamus O'Brien*, lest it should promote the case for devolved government in Ireland (and ultimately Irish political autonomy).

The second, however, is less easily apprehended or understood. The question of Stanford's Irishness (as an aesthetic and artistic feature of his work) can and should be distinguished from Stanford's views on the 'Irish Question' itself. Stanford's politics are difficult to defend even when we concede that his ardent unionism was widely (indeed incrementally) shared, especially in the north-east of the country, following the Home Rule Crisis of 1912-1914.

But Stanford's artistic Irishness, especially as a mode of musical identity, would also prove to be problematic. This was partly because the Irish Literary Revival eclipsed both the stage-Irishry associated with Shamus O'Brien and (more generally) the English projection of Irish stereotypes in the popular press, and partly because the whole enterprise of Irish art music, so dear to Stanford himself, was remaindered following the Easter Rising of 1916 and the formation of the Irish Free State in 1922.

The implications of this dual eclipse for Stanford's Irish reception history to the present day bear more scrutiny than they have received thus far. We can admit that Stanford has been remembered in the centenary year of his death, but whether he has been culturally reclaimed in Ireland is another matter. This distinction underlies my own approach to the question of Stanford's Irishness.

Harry White is Professor and Chair of Music at University College Dublin. He is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy and of the Academy of Europe, a Fellow of the Royal Irish Academy of Music and a corresponding Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. His many publications include *The Keeper's Recital: Music and*

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Cultural History in Ireland, 1770-1970 (1998), The Progress of Music in Ireland (2005), Music and the Irish Literary Imagination (2008) and The Musical Discourse of Servitude (2020). He was general editor (with Barra Boydell) of The Encyclopaedia of Music in Ireland (2013) and has served as series editor of Irish Musical Studies since 1990. His forthcoming collection of essays on the cultural history of Irish music, Fieldwork, will be published in 2025.

Building Bridges for Peace

**40th
Anniversary of
the Brighton
Bomb**

TUESDAY
22nd October 2024

 7-9PM

 Clonard Monastery
1 Clonard Gardens
Belfast
BT13 2RL



Patrick Magee



Jo Berry

Register Now

<https://Bbfp40.eventbrite.com>



Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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