

**CNI**  
CHURCH  
NEWS  
IRELAND

## St Patrick's special



***St Patrick's Festival at Christ Church Cathedral - see report page 5***

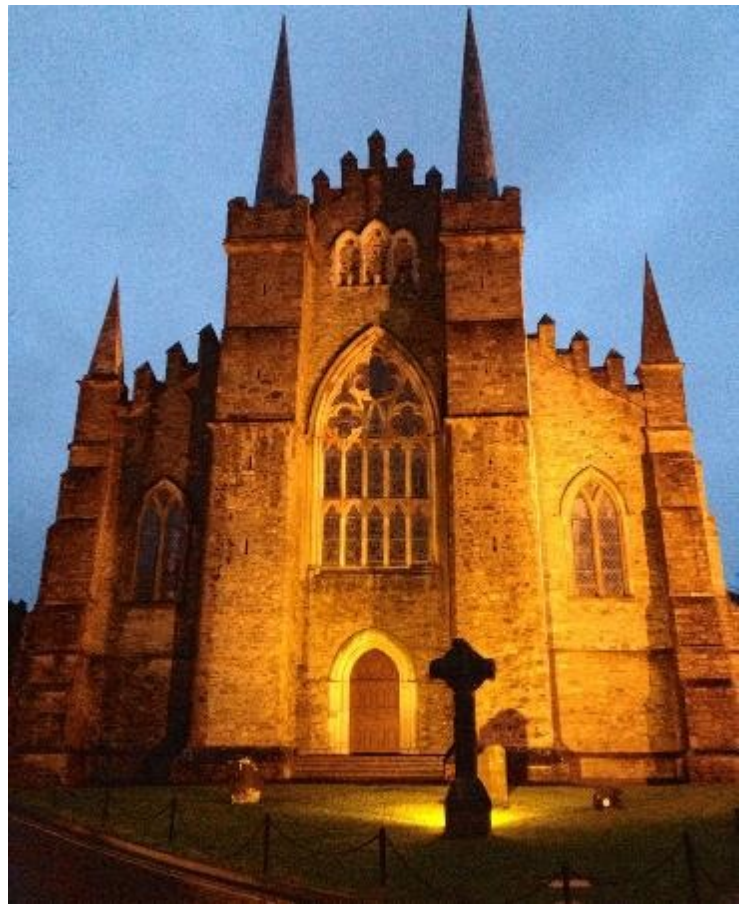
## **Describe an attractive future for a new generation**

### **A St Patrick's Day Message from Right Revd Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore**

This St Patrick's Day we're at a point in our history where we cannot agree on some critical issues of the past which are profoundly important for our future. The questions raised by the Haass talks simply cannot be avoided, and placing them on the back burner during a period of elections is not good enough. The issues of parading, flags and emblems, and the past have

always the potential to derail our society, but especially so if we put them to the back of our minds rather than facing up to them with all the pain and challenge involved.

St Patrick has something to say to all of this. The challenges of Ireland in the fifth century were even greater than they are today, but this one young person was able to paint a picture of a world which was different, and of truly Christian values which had the potential to transform society. We celebrate his life and witness in 2014 not just as a story from the past, but as a sign of hope in the present. If we simply



cling on to the old divisions of the past, there will not be a future for this place, only a past which repeats itself over and over again.

We are claiming more for an up and coming generation. We want an island where our offspring will be glad to set up home, a place they will be proud of, and a context in which they can flourish. That is our prayer this St Patrick's Day, and we will not give up on that prayer until we see it fulfilled. Politicians, business people, artists, church leaders, all of us, need to give ourselves to describing the future in such a way that it becomes more real and attractive than the past.

## Downpatrick celebrations

**Bishop Harold invites you to join him at Down Cathedral for the annual St Patrick's Day Festival Service followed by lunch in the marquee in the Cathedral grounds.**

You are also welcome to attend the Holy Communion Service at Saul and to join the pilgrimage from Saul to Down Cathedral.

The theme this year is 'Transforming a Nation for Him'.

- 9.15 am Holy Communion at Saul
- Presiding: Revd Dr Heather Morris, Methodist President.  
Preacher: Hadden Wilson (Former Pastor of Ballynahinch Baptist)
- 10.15 am Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick
- 11.45 am Festival Service in Down Cathedral  
Preacher: Alain Emerson (Emmanuel Church Lurgan, 24–7 Prayer Ireland)
- Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave
- 1.00 pm Irish stew lunch in the marquee



[Read about our festival service speaker here.](#)

### *Transport to Saul*

Please park along the Mall leading to the Cathedral in Downpatrick and board one of the private buses there. Buses to the communion service depart between 8.30 and 9.00 am. The last bus for the 35 minute pilgrimage leaves at 10.00 am.

## **St Patrick's Day taster**

A flavour of Saul and Down on YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KbD1keuoLg&feature=youtu.be>

## Snakes alive in St Patrick's, Coleraine!

**The story of St Patrick is being brought to life for hundreds of schoolchildren in a super slithery way in St Patrick's Church of Ireland, Coleraine.**

Since last week, pupils from local schools have been visiting the historic church – which marks its 400th anniversary next year – to learn more about St Patrick's story and the type of person our patron saint was.



Helping children and families' worker Alice

McAlary delve into history is a rather lengthy 20-year-old Milk Snake from South America who is taking his part in portraying history in his stride – or should that be in his slide!

Alice normally speaks about St Patrick in school assemblies at this time of year, but a grant from Coleraine Borough Council allowed the parish to produce booklets on the life of St Patrick for children and to open up the church as a fun centre for learning. The mosaics and stained glass help bring the saint's story to life.

Alice said: "We thought it would be great to encourage children to come into the church. We give them all a book on St Patrick and how God guided his life. It is easy to think of saints as people on stained glass windows but in fact they were people who were needed by God and who reached out to their community.

"Patrick reached people not just with words, but he made them step out of their comfort zone."

In dispelling some of the myths about St Patrick, particularly in relation to shamrocks and snakes (cue our scaly friend!) Alice aims to pass on some valuable advice to the children. "We ask them to describe a snake and they come up with words like 'scary,' 'poisonous' and 'slimy.' When they get to meet him they find snakes are not like that at all," said Alice.

“As people we all have stickers attached to us, some are bad, some are good, but they don't belong to us. God wants us to rise above the stickers and, like a saint in a stained glass window, he wants the sun to shine through us.”



Alice is assisted in this school project by youth worker Ryan Galway and parishioner and teacher John Kildea, while the snake is on a break from the local pet shop.

The project got underway on Thursday March 6 and will finish on St Patrick's Day, March 17.

## Variety at Christ Church Cathedral Dublin

**Christ Church Cathedral Christ Church Cathedral will come alive this Saint Patrick's Weekend, with a host of events including tours, traditional music, face-painting and Céilís that will be sure to capture the imagination of all.**

As part of the Saint Patrick's Day Festival 2014, Discovery Gospel Choir will also join us and will be sure to raise the roof with their energetic world fusion gospel music to launch the celebration of their 10th Birthday! They will be joined on the night by special guests: Congolese guitarist [Niwel Tumb](#) and Norwegian ensemble [Drøbak Gospel](#). - See Music report today on CNI for further details and article by member of this choir.

A spokesperson for the cathedral said - 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. We will have expert dancers on hand who will guide you along the way. Learn the steps and movements enjoy live traditional music or just relax in our Crypt Café and soak up the atmosphere of the 12th Century surrounds right in the heart of Dublin City Centre. Taking part is free but booking is advised.

You can also get creative with the kids at our St Patrick's themed activities area, as well as a unique kids activity trail for the whole family to enjoy. Running on Saturday and Monday, children can come and have fun engaging in activities and expressing their creative side with a range of festive arts and craft activities. Free with Cathedral entry, these hands-on arts and crafts activities will be available from 10am until 5pm both days. Then top the day off, outside on the Cathedral grounds and join the 'craic agus ceol' with live music and entertainment from some wonderful trad musicians. We will also be joined by The Irish Village Food Market with stalls offering a wide variety of homemade and gourmet foods, from traditional cakes to tasty lunches by the fantastic Kerala Kitchen and Pixi Boo.

A true celebration of Irish culture in the heart of Dublin's city centre with music, craft and food not to be missed.

For information on booking tickets for the tours or the [Discovery Gospel Choir 'Home' Concert](#), please visit [entertainment.ie](http://entertainment.ie).

### **Opening Times:**

15th March Saturday 9.00-18.00 (last entry 17.15)

16th March Sunday 12.30 -12.30 & 16.30- 18.00 (last entry 17.15)

17th March Monday 9.00-18.00 (last entry 17.15)

### **Christ Church Entry Tickets:**

(individual) Adults: €6.00 Seniors/Students: €4.50

Children (under 16): €2.00

Family Tickets (2 adults + 2 children under 16):€15.00

Group Rates available

## **St Patrick in his own words**

**An ecumenical celebration in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin at 6.00 pm  
see -**

<http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/media/file/Ecumenical%20Celebration%20St%20Patrick%27s%20Cathedral%2017th%20March%202014.pdf>