



IRISH ECUMENICAL NEWS

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Irish Ecumenical News # 52 January 2009

*An occasional ecumenical information resource for the 3,250 faith communities of the 15 churches in membership with the Irish Inter Church Meeting and Irish Council of Churches (*see below); for an informal network of local and regional inter-church groups; and for interested laity and clergy on the island of Ireland and across the waters.*

Member Churches

The Catholic Church in Ireland, The Antiochian Orthodox Church in Ireland, The Church of Ireland, The Greek Orthodox Church in Ireland, The LifeLink Network of Churches, The Lutheran Church in Ireland, The Methodist Church in Ireland, The Moravian Church (Irish District), The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, The Religious Society of Friends in Ireland, Rock of Ages Cherubim and Seraphim Church, The Romanian Orthodox Church in Ireland, The Russian Orthodox Church in Ireland, The Salvation Army (Ireland Division).

“An ecumenical resource for Christian pilgrims on the island of Ireland”



**Week of Prayer
for
Christian Unity

2009**

Happy New Year to our readers around this island. **2009** is the United Nation's International Year of Reconciliation; it is a continuation of the national Year of Vocation in Ireland (Catholic Church); it celebrates the Chinese year of the Ox; it also marks the 30th anniversary of the Papal visit to Ireland by the late John Paul II, the 150th anniversary of the 1859 Ulster Revival, the 175th anniversary of the Oxford Movement (Anglo-Catholic) and the 500th anniversary of the birth of the Reformer John Calvin.

In this edition of Irish Ecumenical News, we are wanting to inform church members, ecumenical partners and the wider community about 50 services and events taking place around this island during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25).

This information has many gaps, but it may inspire local churches to either support one of these Irish 'signs of unity' or do something together in their local community.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this list.

In the UN's International Year of Reconciliation, it is appropriate that the services during this Octave focus on the theme chosen by the Korean churches:

'Reconcile your People-that they may become one in your hand' (Ezekiel 37.15-28). Daily reflections, service outlines and other resources during this Octave (January 18-25) are freely downloadable from www.ctbi.org.uk.

Rooted in the experience of the churches in Korea and their context of national division, the words used in this inter-church service have been inspired by the prophet Ezekiel, who also lived in a tragically divided nation and longed for the unity of his people ...

'I will make them one stick in order that they may be one in my hand...They shall be my people and I will be their God.'

A vision of a future where God's people will be united once more. These words speak to us in our diversity today wherever we live on this island.

'When we are without hope, your cross is our hope; when we are lost, your cross is our guide; when we are blind, your cross is our light; when we are weak, your cross is our power; when we are oppressed, your cross sets us free.'

Some suggestions

- **Prayer:** Do commit in your prayers those organising, leading and participating in these services and conferences. May they

serve as a public witness for the Gospel message of Christian unity on this island

- **Year-round:** Pray that the 3'500 faith communities around this island may be inspired to come together more frequently at other times of the year and work together as the eyes and ears, hands and heart of Christ in their local communities.
- **Widen the circle:** This is another opportunity to invite and establish relationship with migrant-led churches in your local community – contact details of some 361 of these are listed on a County basis in a recently launched Directory to be found on our website www.irishchurches.org
- **Feedback:** would be welcomed on the materials made available this year by the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Let me have your comments so I can pass them on to Rev Allen Sleith (ICC) and Fr Kieran McDermott (Catholic) who serve as Irish representatives on the four nations' group that will be preparing materials for 2010.

Note

*Every effort has been made to check the accuracy of information provided in this edition of **Irish Ecumenical News**, but readers are still encouraged to double check the primary sources to confirm the dates, venues and times. The main Diocesan/regional services have been highlighted in bold.*

January 18 (Sunday)

Ballincollig, Co Cork

at 7pm at St Mary's and St John's Church, Station Rd, Ballincollig with the Church of Ireland, Catholic Church and the Redeemed Church of God. Contact: Revd Ruth Jackson, ph 021.438.3103, rgblarney@eircom.net

Ballycastle Co. Antrim

at 7pm at Holy Trinity Church The Diamond. Ballycastle.

Belfast (Ormeau Rd)

at 10.30 am in St John's Presbyterian Church Newtownbreda, Ormeau Rd. Preacher: Michael Earle (General Secretary, Irish Council of Churches). Contact: Rev Wilfred Orr, ph.028.9064.1153

Cairncastle, Co Antrim

at 3pm in the McNeill Theatre, Larne Leisure Centre. Preacher: Revd Maynard Cathcart. Unity Services will take place at 6/6.30pm in the four local churches on the following four days.

Contact: Rev Roger Thompson, ph 028.2826.9552

Cork area

at 7.30pm at Methodist Church, Douglas Rd, Ardfallen. Area service organised, conducted and led by an informal grouping of the four churches called 'Cork Churches Together' involving Rev John Faris, Fr Christy FitzGerald, Rev Geraldine Gracie and Revd Daniel Nuzum. Additional local pulpit exchanges are taking place during the following week. Contact: Rev Geraldine Gracie ph.021.4509574

Derry/Londonderry area

at 8pm at Methodist Church, Carlisle Rd. Preacher: Rev Dr Edmund Mawhinney (former Secretary and a past President, Methodist Church in Ireland). Leaders of the four largest denominations will be present (Bishop Ken Good, Bishop Seamus Hegarty, Rev David Hagan and Rev Sam McGuffin). Contact: Rev Sam McGuffin, ph. 028.7134.8531

Dublin area

at 3.30pm in Christ Church Presbyterian Church, Rathgar, Dublin 6 (situated at the junction of Rathgar Road and Highfield Road, Rathgar). Preacher: Rev Fr Kieran McDermott (PP, Dundrum). This service is being organised by the Dublin Council of Churches (DCC) as the main focus for its nine member churches in the Dublin area and Elizabeth Kelly will be installed as the incoming President of DCC. Contact: Rev Mary Hunter, ph.01.490.5142; or Major Margaret Fozzard, (Secretary, DCC), E.mail dcc.secretary@catalyst.ie

Galway area

at 7.30pm at St Nicholas Church of Ireland. Reflections from Bishop Martin Drennan and the Rector Revd Patrick Towers. Contact: Rector ph. 086814.0649

Killinchy, Co Down

at 7pm at Killinchy Presbyterian. Unity service involving four local denominations. Preacher: Revd Margaret Johnston (Presbyterian). Contact her at ph 028.9754.1231

Lisburn

at 4pm at St Colman's Catholic Church, 111 Queensway, Lambeg, Lisburn. Organised by Churches Together in Lisburn. Contact: Fr Feargal McGrady, ph 028.9266.2896

Navan, Co Meath

at 7.30pm in St Anne's Chapel of St Mary's Church (RC). Preacher: Rt Revd Richard Clarke (Church of Ireland). Contact: Fr Gerard McCormack ph. 046.9027518

South Belfast

at 7pm at St Thomas Church of Ireland, Eglantine Avenue/Lisburn Rd. Preacher: Rt Rev Noel Treanor (Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor). Organised by the South Belfast Churches Fellowship. Contact: Canon Walter Lewis ph. 028-9066-3332, stthomasparish@btconnect.com

Waterford City

at 7.30pm in Church of Ireland Cathedral. Preacher: Fr Edmund Cullinane. Contact: Very Revd Trevor Lester, ph. 051.874119

Whitehead and Islandmagee, Co Antrim

Pulpit swaps involving Church of Ireland and Methodist Churches. Contact: Rev Mark Taylor 028.9337.3300, e.mail mark205@btinternet.com

Whitehouse, Co Antrim

at 7pm at St John's Church of Ireland (Whitehouse), 283 Shore Road, Newtownabbey. Organised by the churches in Whitehouse/Greencastle area. Preacher: Fr John McManus (PP Star of the Sea, Whitehouse). Contact: Revd Hayden Foster, ph 028.9085.1622

January 19 (Monday)

Belfast (Andersonstown)

at 8pm at St Agnes (RC) parish, 143 Andersonstown Rd. Preacher: Rev Ruth Patterson (Restoration Ministries). Contact Fr Gerry McCloskey, ph 9061.3724

Drogheda, Co Louth. The 43rd Greenhills Ecumenical Conference has invited Rev Professor Brendan Leahy (Maynooth) to be their keynote speaker on the theme '*The Eucharist, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*' with responses from members of other churches. After lunch, a panel discussion will focus on the appeal of Christian Unity issues to young people in the churches. From 10.30-3.45 at Our Lady's College, Drogheda. Cost £15 / €20. including lunch. Further details:
Rev Tom Kingston ph 00353 (0) 50547595
email gkingston@gmail.com

Portstewart, Co Antrim

at 8pm in The Star of the Sea Parish Centre, off the Coleraine Road, Portstewart (behind Budd's grocery store near the Diamond). Speakers: Rev. Austin McGirr (Catholic) and Rev. Michael Gregory (Methodist). Organised by Coleraine Borough Churches Forum: contact Vera McBride (Secretary), ph 028 7083 2097, email jeanne@kimberley6.freeseve.co.uk

January 20 (Tuesday)

Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan

at 7.30pm at St Joseph's Church, O'Neill Street. Preacher: Revd Robert Kingston (Church of Ireland). Contact: Fr Vincent Connolly, ph 042.966.3200

Cookstown, Co Tyrone

at 8pm at Cookstown Methodist Church, Loy Street. Organised by Cookstown District Clergy Forum. Preacher: Rev Brian Sweeney (Methodist). Contact: Rev Brian Sweeney ph.028.8676.2639

Dublin (Ballyboden)

at 7.30pm at the Augustinian House of Studies Oratory, Taylors Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16. Contact: Rev Horace McKinley, ph 01.493.3953/01.493.4972

Dundalk area

at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Cathedral. Preacher: Revd Sandra Pragnell (Church of Ireland). Contact: Fr Gerry Campbell (Cathedral Administrator) 042.933.4648

January 21 (Wednesday)

Armagh area

at 7.30pm at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Cathedral Close, Armagh. Organised by the Cathedrals' Partnership with Cardinal Sean Brady and Archbishop Alan Harper attending. Preacher: Rt Revd Michael Jackson (Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher). Contact: Very Reverend Patrick Rooke ph. 028 37 523142
admin@armaghpubliclibrary.co.uk

Ballycastle, Co Antrim

at 2pm at the Corrymeela Centre, Drumaroan Rd. Annual Friends of the Way Conference. Guest speaker: Rev Ruth Patterson (Restoration Ministries). Contact: 028.2076.2626

Blessington, Co Wicklow

at 8pm at St Mary's Church of Ireland. Preacher: to be confirmed. Contact: Rev Leonard Ruddock, ph 045.865.178,
leonardruddock@gmail.com

Dublin (Santry)

at 11am in the Blessed Margaret Ball Chapel, Royal Oak, Coolock Lane, Santry. Preacher: Rev John Marchant (Church of Ireland chaplain at Dublin City University). Contact: Fr Aidan d'Arcy ph. 01.842.8283,
www.whitehall.dublindiocese.ie

Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh

at 8pm at St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen. Organised by Fermanagh Churches Forum. Preacher: Very Rev Raymond Thompson (Church of Ireland). Contact: Eileen Gallagher, ph 028.6632.8210

Newtownards, Co Down

at 7.30pm in Newtownards Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Victoria Avenue. Preacher: Rev Chris Hudson (Non-Subscribing Presbyterian). Organised by the Ards Clergy Fellowship and the Newtownards Inter-Church Group involving 10 local churches. Contact: Rev Brian Cockroft ph. 028.4278.8650; Revd Adrian Dorrian (Secretary, ACF) 028.9181.3193.

January 22 (Thursday)

Belfast area

at 8pm in St Peter's Cathedral (RC) off the falls Road in West Belfast. Organised by the Cathedrals' Partnership (Connor and Down and Dromore Dioceses). Preacher: Rt Revd Michael Jackson (Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher). Contact: Very Rev Dr Hugh Kennedy, ph.028.9032.7573

Dalkey, (Co Dublin)

at 8pm at the Church of the Assumption (RC), Dalkey. Contact: Fr John McDonagh 01.285.9418

Dublin (UCD)

at 5.30pm in the Contemplation Room at St Stephen's Chaplaincy building in University College, Dublin. Father Leon O Giolláin SJ and Gillian Kingston will be leading a short service of reflection, followed by a meal. Contact: Gillian Kingston ph. 01.716.8543

Dublin (TCD)

at 5.15pm in the Chapel at Trinity College. Preacher: Rev Aian Ferguson (President, Methodist Church in Ireland). Contact: Rev Darren McCallig, ph 01.896.1402

Dungannon

at 8pm in St Anne's Church of Ireland Church, Church Street. Organised by the Dungannon District Clergy Forum. Preacher: Rev Clive Webster (Methodist). Contact: Revd Andrew Forster, ph.028.8772.2614

Glenarm, Co Antrim

at 8pm at St Patrick's Church, Glenarm. Preacher: Sister Anna (Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre, Larne). Contact: Revd Moreen Hutchinson, ph 028.2827.5996

January 23 (Friday)

Aughrim, Co Galway

at 8pm at Holy Trinity, Aughrim. Preacher: Rev George Flynn (Church of Ireland) with Bishop Trevor Williams (Limerick and Killaloe), Bishop John Kirby (Clonfert) and Dr David Stevens (Corrymeela Community) present. Contact: Claire Besnoe (Oak House Fellowship) ph.091.843.004

Ballymena, Co Antrim

Ballymena Area Service. Preacher: Rev Dr Johnston McMaster (Irish School of Ecumenics). Contact: Rev Jan Mullin ph 028.2565.3141

Dublin (Christ Church Cathedral)

at 8pm in the Irish language in the Christ Church Cathedral, Christchurch Place. Preacher: Rev Adrienne Galligan (Church of Ireland). Organised by Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise and Pobal an Aifrin. The service will be followed by a reception in the crypt to which all are welcome. Contact: Sarah Drumm, ph 01.677.8099, email assist@cccdub.ie

Sligo, Co Mayo

at 8pm at St John's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Sligo. Preacher: to be confirmed. Contact: Very Rev'd Arfon Williams, Strandhill Road, or Fr. Pat Lombard, St. Mary's Sligo ph. 071 -9162670

January 24 (Saturday)

Belfast (Ormeau)

Ormeau Churches Together are holding a Community Breakfast at 8.30am in the Rosetta Hall, St John's Presbyterian, Newtonbreda. Guest speaker: Rev Ruth Patterson (Restoration Ministries). Contact: Rev Wilfred Orr, ph 028.9064.1153

Belfast (North)

at 6pm as part of Great Vespers at the Antiochian Orthodox Church of St Ignatius (previously St James Church of Ireland), corner Antrim/Cliftonville Rds. Contact: Fr Irenaeus, ph.028.9071.2523

Dublin

at 3pm at St Theresa's Church, Clarendon St (off Grafton St). Concelebrated Mass with Homilist: Rev Fr Brendan Leahy (Professor of Systematic Theology, Maynooth). Contact: Legion of Mary, www.legion-of-mary.ie

Kilkenny (Catholic Cathedral)

at 8pm in St Mary's Cathedral. Preacher: Bishop Michael Burrows (Church of Ireland). Contact: Very Revd Norman Lynas ph.56.77.21516

January 25 (Sunday)

Ballybay, Co Monaghan

at 8pm at 1st Presbyterian, Clones Rd, Ballybay. United Service organised by local clergy. Preacher: Rev William Buchanan (Presbyterian), Contact: Rev William Buchanan, ph. 042.974.1051

Ballybrack (Co Dublin)

at 7pm at St Matthias' Church, Station Rd, Ballybrack. Preacher: Roger Childs (Head of Religious Broadcasting, RTE). Contact: Revd Ian Poulton, ph 01.285.2228

Derryvolgie, Co. Antrim

at 10.30am with Korean Christian in Lisburn, followed by Korean snack/kimbap after the service. Preacher: Jung Nam Lee. Contact Rev Donna Quigley, ph 028.9260.7370

Dublin (Ringsend)

at 3.30pm at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Ringsend. Preacher: Elizabeth Kelly (Chairperson of the Dublin Council of Churches). Contact: Fr Michael Coady, ph 01.6684192

Ennis, Co Clare

at 7pm in St Columba's Church of Ireland. Contact: Canon Bob Hanna, ph.065.6820109

Greenisland, Co Antrim

Christian Community service at 7pm at St. Coleman's Church, Greenisland. Contact: Rev Paul Lyons, ph.028.9085.9676

Kilkenny (Church of Ireland Cathedral)

at 11.15 am in St Canice's Cathedral. Preacher: Bishop Seamus Freeman (Catholic) Contact: Very Revd Norman Lynas ph.56.77.21516

Longford, Co Longford

at 7.30pm in St Mel's Cathedral (RC). Preacher: Rt Revd Richard Clarke (Church of Ireland). Contact: Fr Tom Healy ph 043.46465

January 26 (Monday)

Belfast: Personal Assistants of church leaders-administrators- and General Secretaries of IICC's member churches have been invited to meet and share together over lunch at the Inter-Church Centre in Elmwood Avenue. Contact: General Secretary 028.9066.3145

In Memoriam

In recent weeks, the Irish ecumenical family has farewelled Kathleen Davey (co-Founder, Corrymeela Community), Rev Dr John Morrow (Leader, 1980-1993) and John Martin (Corrymeela Link), each of whom made an immense contribution to the shaping, development and interpreting the work of the Corrymeela Community (and other ecumenical

bodies) both on this island and offshore. They worked tirelessly on the ground for a Gospel expression of a reconciled community and a shared future on this island long before these words became politicised. Marked by humility and a genuine love for people from every background, each in their own way inspired, encouraged and nurtured the fragile seeds of Irish and Anglo-Irish ecumenism over many decades, building new relationships, sharing stories, and creating new working models of an inclusive community for future generations. Amongst other loved pilgrims of unity known in our local communities, they were icons of grace and light, channels of peace, standing stones and faithful instruments of God's love. Tall trees in the forest have now fallen, leaving the sunlight to fall onto smaller seedlings to grow and in time fill out the empty forest canopy once more. Our hearts and prayers are with their loved ones at this time of loss and mourning.

Advert: New position (Ecumenical Officer, part-time)

An exciting new opportunity to strengthen and develop local ecumenical relationships between churches in Ireland. The Irish Council of Churches has secured joint funding from the Irish Episcopal Conference and ICC's own resources to create a new part time post (20 hours a week) for a three year period, starting April/May. It will be based in Dublin, but will involve travel around the island. If you have ecumenical experience and meet other relevant criteria, contact the Inter-Church Centre, 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ for a job description and application form – these can also be downloaded at the end of the month from www.irishchurches.org. Applications on the appropriate form will close February 27th. Please circulate this to those whom you feel might be interested. Thank you.

Resources for Lent 2009

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland are again partnering BBC Radio 4 and BBC Local Radio to provide a rich worship and prayer resource during the six week period of Lent 2009 (March 1-April 5). This year it will enable people to make their Lenten journey accompanied and inspired by worship, prayer and reflections prompted by the senses with a focus on **'Sense Making Faith'**. *'In meeting Jesus through the senses we will find that we are drawn to the feast with him, to respond to him, to become involved in acts of love, to worship'* (Anne Richards). Each week begins with Sunday worship on BBC Radio 4 (0810-0850), complemented by additional programmes on the Daily Service (0945-1000 BBC R4 LW), local radio and downloadable resources. Each week an invited preacher will reflect on a story of Jesus in which a sense, or the lack of it, plays a key role. Further details: Revd Peter Colwell, CTBI, ph.020.7654.7216, www.ctbi.org.uk, www.sensemakingfaith.org.uk, www.bbc.co.uk/religion

ICC AGM 2009

The 86th AGM of the 15 member churches of the Irish Council of Churches will be held from 10 to 4.30pm on Thursday, April 2nd in the Gracehill Moravian Church, nr Ballymena. Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski (President, Dublin City University) will be the keynote speaker on the day's theme '**Living for Tomorrow's World – green? global? greedy?**' Formal business will take place from 3pm. Further details: General Secretary, Email michael@irishchurches.org

Updated website on Irish ecumenism

This edition of *Irish Ecumenical News*, along with an up to date calendar of ecumenical events and countless resources for use by local parishes, faith communities and ecumenical groups, can be downloaded from our website at www.irishchurches.org. The content can only be as good and useful as the information that you, as readers, send to this office about dates/stories of ecumenical events taking place in your area and resources you have found helpful in your groups. Let's develop this as a network of ideas and actions to stimulate and encourage each other at the local level with the purpose of strengthening the witness of the Body of Christ on this island.

Fundraising during Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Irish School of Ecumenics Trust invites parishes and ecumenical groups throughout the island to support their ongoing community education outreach (cross-border, cross-community) during this Week. Further detail: Jackie Scanlan, Development Office, ISE Dublin, 01.260.1144 ext. 105, email isedev@tcd.ie, www.tcd.ie/ise

Habitat for Humanity also invite churches of all denominations across Northern Ireland to join together to build a lasting hope for people around the world. '*At this time when churches are focussing on prayer for Christian unity, we want to challenge*

churches to think locally and globally about ways to work together. It costs on average £1,235 to build a Habitat home in the developing world and we are hoping 50 churches in Northern Ireland will consider raising the funds to build 50 extra houses in 2009. Habitat for Humanity believes in putting faith into action. As the walls go up, so many invisible walls come down and new hope is built in the heart of the community' (Archbishop Tutu). Further detail: Danielle Smyth, Churches and Community Fundraiser, Habitat for Humanity (NI), ph 028 9024 3686 ex 228, www.habitatni.co.uk; or Dave Lynas in their Dublin office, ph 01.629.9611, www.habitatireland.ie

Next edition

The Spring edition of *Irish Ecumenical News* will be published in early April. Contributions that would interest local faith communities and the wider ecumenical movement on this island and are no more than 150 words, are invited to be sent to the Inter-Church Centre at ien@irishchurches.org **before February 27th**. (Please include local contact details.) Help to contribute ecumenical information that's useful, that encourages, that is relevant to others on this island and which advances the Gospel mandate to be one. Many thanks.

Extend the links

When you have finished reading this newsletter, do pass it on to others to share in your community so we can strengthen our networking as an ecumenical movement. New readers are invited to send us their email address so we can include them in future mailings. Any comments about this edition, what's useful or otherwise, are welcomed.

Michael Earle, Editor

General Secretary, Irish Council of Churches

Executive Secretary, Irish Inter-Church Meeting

January 2009

(See front page for full contact details for the Inter-Church Centre office)