

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – St Nicholas Carrickfergus**

July 16, 2024

# Image of the day



## St Nicholas Carrickfergus by Gaz Drone

**These serial photographs today are due to the skill and generosity of an enthusiast with the nom-de-plume Gaz Drone.**

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He/she is sharing their pastime - "I was waiting to do a job yesterday and had 10 mins to spare, so up goes the drone, snap snap snap and absolutely zero editing on these shots at the request of a follower." And the following desertion was kindly attached.

St Nicholas' Church is a Church of Ireland church and a popular visitor attraction in Carrickfergus, County Antrim. It was built in 1182 AD by John de Courcy, an Anglo-Norman knight, and is one of the oldest churches in Ireland. The church has been rebuilt and renovated several times over the centuries, but it retains many of its original features, including a Romanesque doorway and a chancel arch.

The church is dedicated to Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors and children. The interior of the church is simple and elegant, with whitewashed walls and a stone floor. There are a number of interesting monuments in the church, including a tomb effigy of Sir Arthur Chichester, a Lord Deputy of Ireland in the early 17th century.

St Nicholas' Church is a beautiful and historic building that is well worth a visit. It is a place of worship for the local community, and it also offers guided tours for visitors.

# CNI News



## Teenagers from Belfast go to MOVE in Kildare

**Going to MOVE in Kildare** Four teens from St John's parish on Belfasts Falls Road who will join 300 other 14-17 yr olds from across Ireland at Christ in Youth's summer residential MOVE in Co Kildare at the end of July.

Five days of faith, fun and fellowship. Please hold Ezekiel, Casey, Aoife Grace and Katie Rose in your prayers .

## Let there be LIGHT in Greenisland

**Charlie and Harry did a great job replacing the lights in Greenisland Parish.**



The writer promised -  
**O**ne thing's for sure:  
you'll definitely be  
able to see EVERY  
DETAIL of the Sunday  
service from now on.



## **God's Welcoming Church project impacts on Carlow's Entente Florale 2024**

**St Mary's was part of Carlow's Entente Florale / European Flower Festival submission and was visited by the team of judges as well as local garden and civic dignitaries, on Friday morning.**

Rev Paul & Carolyn met the team welcoming everyone and bringing them on a tour of the garden and historic building. Carolyn talked about the Sunday Club and how the children led the way in our God's Welcoming Church project. This project started in 2017 as the brainchild of Rev David White and built on an existing interest in the environment encouraged by Rev Olivia Williams. The project drew



heavily and cooperatively on the recommendations of the National Biodiversity Centre. The project grew in incremental steps, building, developing and winning awards from Carlow County Council and the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

In 2019 two self guided, contemplative and experiential Prayer Walks were added, one for children and one for adults. In the last year Rev Paul Fitzpatrick and Rev Ger James have facilitated and encouraged the child and adult gardeners and have helped themselves too! The project allows us to explore the fifth of the Anglican Marks of Mission, “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”. The project also meets a number of the European Sustainable Development Goals.

The judges and visitors enjoyed visiting the church. As they walked through the gates, passing the Mo Mow section of the graveyard, the willow structure and the sacred space, campanologists William Griffin and Rowan Stanley played “Ode to Joy” the European Anthem. Then Rowan and William’s young grandson Craig Griffin gave a



demonstration of how to play the carillon or chimes. Organist Sena Harenburg then treated the visitors to beautiful music while Carolyn and Rev Paul explained how the Select Vestry had purchased the neighbouring house in 2009 to create an onsite parish centre. The footpath from the church to the house is now a riot of colour and bordered either side by a very impressive floral display.

In the Community House there was a photographic display showing the growth of the church garden from dense tree planting in the 1950s, to broad grassed areas in 2011 to the diverse planted gorgeous garden we have now, a place of quiet, reflection and calm.

An unexpected colourful jewel in the centre of town.



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“The garden is open with the help of our Tús tour guides on weekdays from 10am - 2pm and on Sunday mornings from 10am - 12:30pm with church service at 10:45am”.

For selection of fabulous photographs see -  
(<https://carlow-nationalist.ie/2024/07/11/carlow-town-rolls-out-the-red-carpet-for-the-entente-florale-judges/>)

## **Catholic Church split on women deacons, Vatican document shows**

**The global Catholic Church is split on whether to allow women to serve as deacons, a Vatican document showed on Tuesday, just weeks after Pope Francis ruled out any opening on the issue.**

Giving women a greater role in the male-dominated Church is one of the issues up for the debate at a summit of bishops known as the synod.

A first, inconclusive session was held last year. On Tuesday, the Vatican released a working document due to inform discussions at a second and final session in October.

"While some local Churches call for women to be admitted to the diaconal ministry, others reiterate their opposition," it said.

Noting that women deacons will not be on the synod's agenda, it said "theological reflection (on the issue) should continue, on an appropriate timescale and in the appropriate ways".

Deacons, like priests, are ordained ministers, and as in the priesthood, must be men in today's Church. Women deacons existed in early Christianity, but it is unclear what role they had.

Current-day deacons may not celebrate Mass, but they may preach, teach in the name of the Church, baptise and conduct wedding, wake and funeral services and even run a parish.

However, the Vatican document stressed the need to "give fuller recognition" to women in the Church, saying that "by virtue of Baptism, they enjoy full equality".

Known as "Instrumentum laboris", the document was presented after consultations with national bishops' conferences and Catholic institutions and associations from around the world.

Turning to another hot-button issue, the text did not include any specific references to LGBT people, but called for more inclusivity.

"A need emerges in all continents concerning people who, for different reasons, are or feel excluded or on the margins of the ecclesial community or who struggle to find full recognition of their dignity and gifts within it," it said.

In an interview with U.S. broadcaster CBS' "60 Minutes" programme recorded in April and aired in May, Francis responded with a flat "no" when asked if he was open to women deacons.

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But he added that women were often playing deacon-like roles, without formally having that title. "Women are of great service as women, not as ministers," he said.

## Cathedral calls



## Archbishop's treat for choristers

**On Sunday 30 June, after singing Choral Evensong at the Cathedral, the girl choristers joined Archbishop Justin and Caroline Welby for dinner at the Old Palace.**

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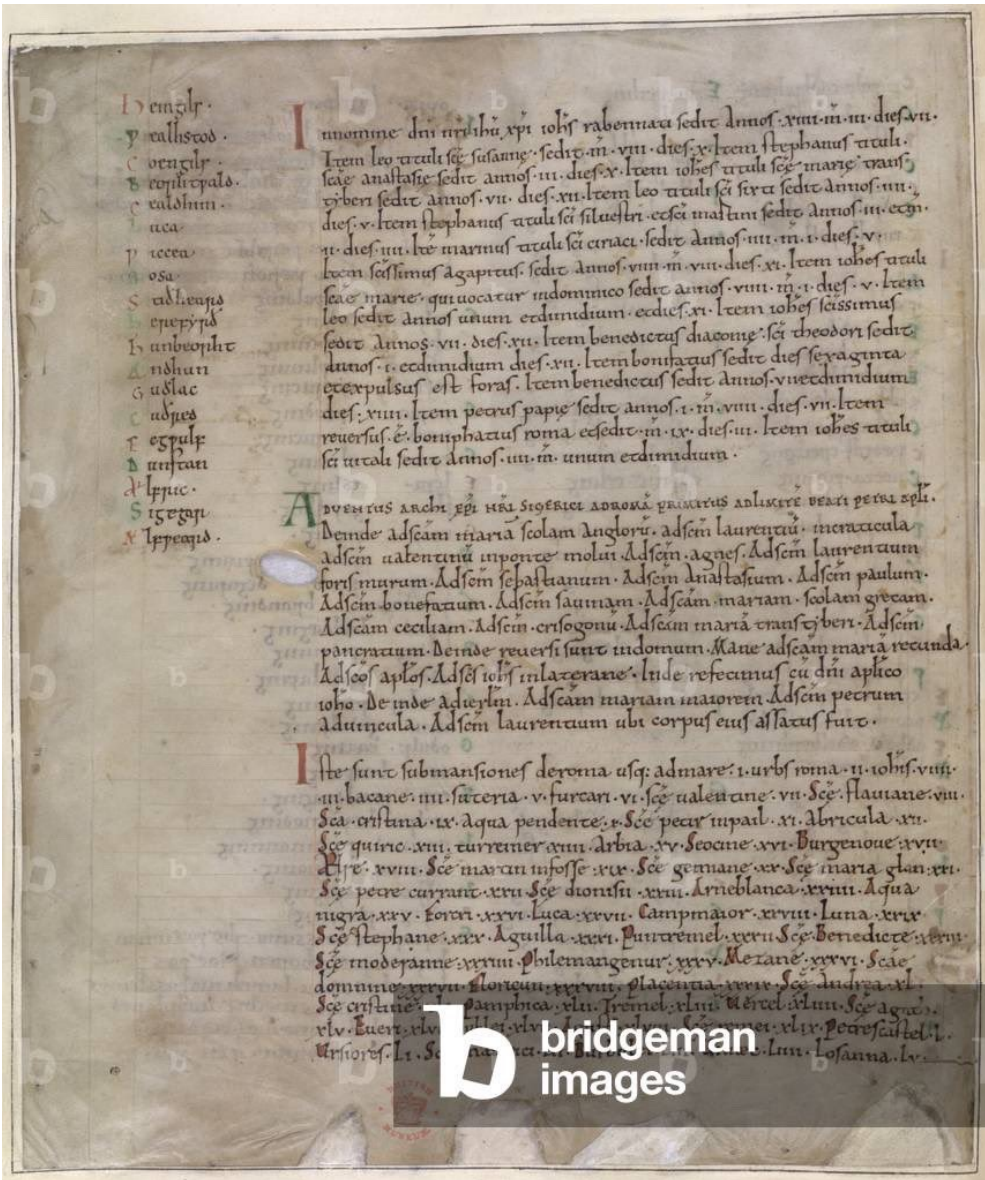
This academic year has been very busy for all of the Cathedral choristers - with broadcasts, concerts and recordings, as well as their main role with daily worship - so the chance to relax and enjoy dinner at the Old Palace was very much appreciated.

Earlier in the year the boy choristers enjoyed a Christmas party hosted by Archbishop Justin and Caroline Welby.



## Pilgrim path from Southwark to Canterbury and Rome

**The Bishop of London, the Bishop of Dover and members of the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome gathered to celebrate the new pilgrim path.**



The path links Southwark to Canterbury and on to the Via Francigena ... the route taken to Rome by Sigeric, Archbishop of Canterbury, to collect his pallium in 990 - whose itinerary is

described in a document Cotton Tiberius B held by the British Library.

## Preparing for Liverpool centenary

Despite having been promised a day off, the girls kindly came in on Sunday afternoon to sing Evensong for the Friends of Liverpool Cathedral annual festival, AGM, and afternoon tea.



“We marked the occasion by reintroducing the famous Liverpool Cathedral Choir cross procession which caused a former Bishop of Diocese of Liverpool to say, ‘go to Liverpool Cathedral if you want to learn how to walk to the glory of God’.”

The Festival Eucharist and the Peoples’ Service to mark the centenary of the consecration of Liverpool Cathedral; all welcome next Sunday at 10.30am and 3pm.

## **A Holy Hug at Tuam's St Mary's Cathedral**

Dean of Tuam, Very Reverend Diane Matchett and the also very reverend musician Padraic Stephens share a hug on



the site where High King of Ireland Turlough O' Connor once built a cathedral in the 12th century. Now home to Tuam's St Mary's Cathedral

## Clergy and ministry

### Refreshed at St George's Windsor

**'How do you speak about God?' was the focus of a ten day consultation at Windsor which included a number of Church of Ireland clergy.**

One of the Irish participants summed up her feelings thus - "This was an intense and thoroughly enjoyable 10 days, spent at St George's House, Windsor, in 'Conversations



about God'. The Consultation was with clergy colleagues from across the UK and Ireland and the USA and with a number of specialists who enabled us to grapple with a range of topics and contemporary issues and to listen to what God might be saying through Scripture to the Church and the World today.

“Deeply thankful for the learning, refreshment and encouragement in particular through daily worship in St George's Chapel. Wonderful also to have forged new friendships.

“Good to be home now and returning to the parishes renewed. Thanks to everyone at home and to Diocesan colleagues and Parish friends who looked after the Aughaval Parishes - Westport & Dugort, Castlebar, Turlough in my absence”.





## **CCTP Class of 2023 Graduation**

**Members of the C of I Theological Institution's 2023 cohort of the Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice (CCTP) celebrated successful completion of the course at an award ceremony in Trinity College Dublin recently.**

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The group are photographed together after the ceremony in Trinity's city centre campus. They are part of a wider group of 27 CCTP students who gained this award.

From (l-r) Ashley Morgan, Linda Hughes, Robert McBride, Noel Griffin, Joanna Griffin, Stuart Broomfield, Olive Good, Faith Sithole, Rev Dr Patrick McGlinchey

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### St Ann's Dawson Street Thursday lunch time concert

**You've heard the rumours... The rumours are true... Lekkere Jeans is coming to St Ann's!**



Spanish pianist Enric Roda Beltrán and Irish tenor Luke Horner bring their exquisite yet relaxed classical duo this Thursday.

1:20pm. Thurs 18 July. €10 at the big red doors

# Poem for today

## Hymn to the Sun

by Michael Roberts

'Voy wawm' said the dustman  
one bright August morning -  
But that was in Longbenton,  
under the trees.

He was Northumbrian, he'd never known  
horizons shimmering in the sun,  
men with swart noontide faces sleeping, thick with flies,  
by roadside cherry trees.

He was Northumbrian, how should he know  
mirage among blue hills,  
thin streams that tinkle silence in the still  
pulsating drone of summer -

How should he know  
how cool the darkness in the white-washed inns  
after the white road dancing, and the stones,  
and quick dry lizards, round Millevaches?

'Fait chaud,' as each old woman said,  
going over the hill, in Perigord,  
prim in tight bonnets, worn black dresses, and content  
with the lilt of sunlight in their bones.

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# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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