

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – The Red Book of Ossory

July 19, 2024

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The Red Book of Ossory

The Red Book of Ossory is on public display for the first time from July 29th at St. Canice's Cathedral

Discover the remarkable Red Book of Ossory. Created almost 700 years ago.

From medieval distillation to a bishop's poetry, its pages reach into the past and show us, through scribed words, aspects of Kilkenny life previously obscured by centuries

The book was penned in Kilkenny almost 700 years ago by a most extraordinary bishop, the Bishop of Ossory, Richard Ledrede.

On loan from the Representative Church Body Library, the book is returning 'home' to go on public display for the first time in history.

People are invited to preview the exhibition and its centrepiece, The Red Book of Ossory, from Monday, July 29th at St. Canice's Cathedral.

The 79-vellum page artefact will "spark imagination and connect local people with their history," according to the Very Reverend Stephen Farrell, Dean of Ossory.

Entrance to the exhibition is included in the entrance fee to the Cathedral.

News



All the best for Paris! Skibbereen prompts boating bishop

“On my way to Baltimore today, as part of my Visitation 2024, I passed Skibbereen Rowing Club on the banks of the Ilen River”, commented Rt Rev Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork.

July 19, 2024

He continued, “The club has had many international winners over the years and 4 club members will represent Ireland at the Olympics -



defending champions Paul O’Donovan and Fintan McCarthy, Aoife Casey and Emily Hegarty.

“Not so long ago the club honoured Richard Hosford, one of the founders of the club and parishioner of Abbeystrewry/ Skibbereen Union of Parishes by naming a boat after him.

“All the best for Paris!”

Lady of the Lake Festival ends with inter-church community service

The Rector of Derryvullen North and Castlearchdale in Clogher diocese commented , “Thank you to everyone



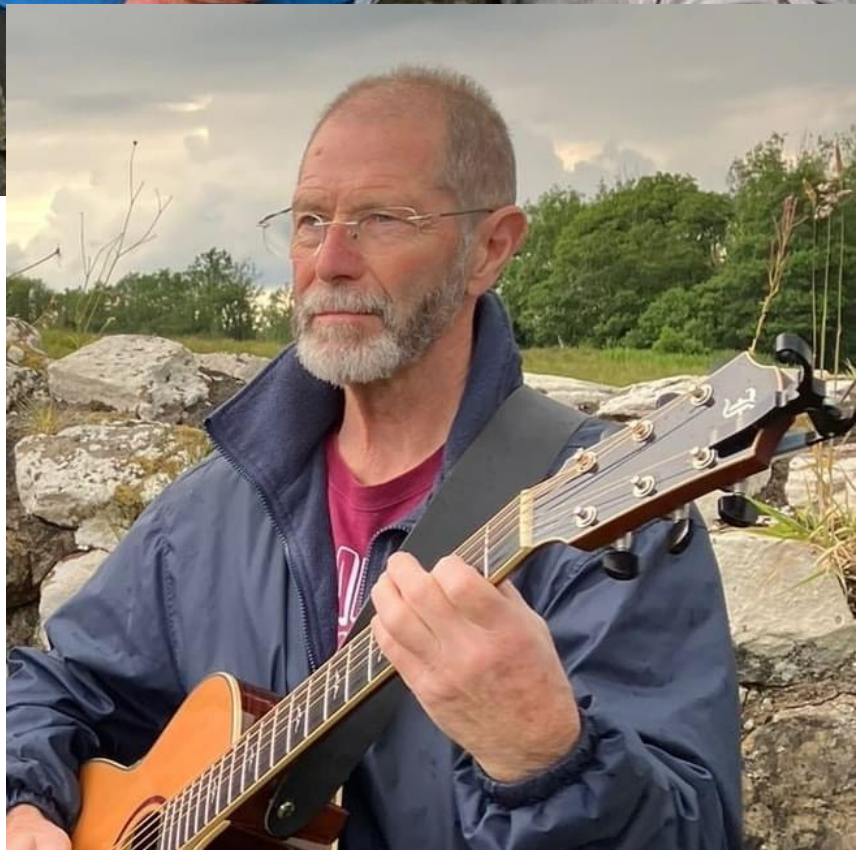
involved in the inter-church community service on White Island last Sunday.

“This was led by leaders from the local churches:



Canon Kevin (RC),
Ethel (Cofl),
Günther (Presb)
and Johnny
(Meth). The music
and singing was
led by the
Community Choir.

“Thank you to Joe





and the Lady of the Lake Festival Committee for all their organising.

“I’m sorry I could not be there, but it was my time to be canon in residence at St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin.

“The photos are courtesy of Carol, Lynsey and Sam”.

New boots in West Winds Newtownards

Street Reeach focused on the Wellie Boots, bringing new colours and freshness to them.



West Winds community church's small team of volunteers also renewed the bark around the shrubs at the benches and a litter pick.



“Thank you to everyone who came along to bless the community in such a special way” said West Winds



C of E Bishops at State Opening of Parliament

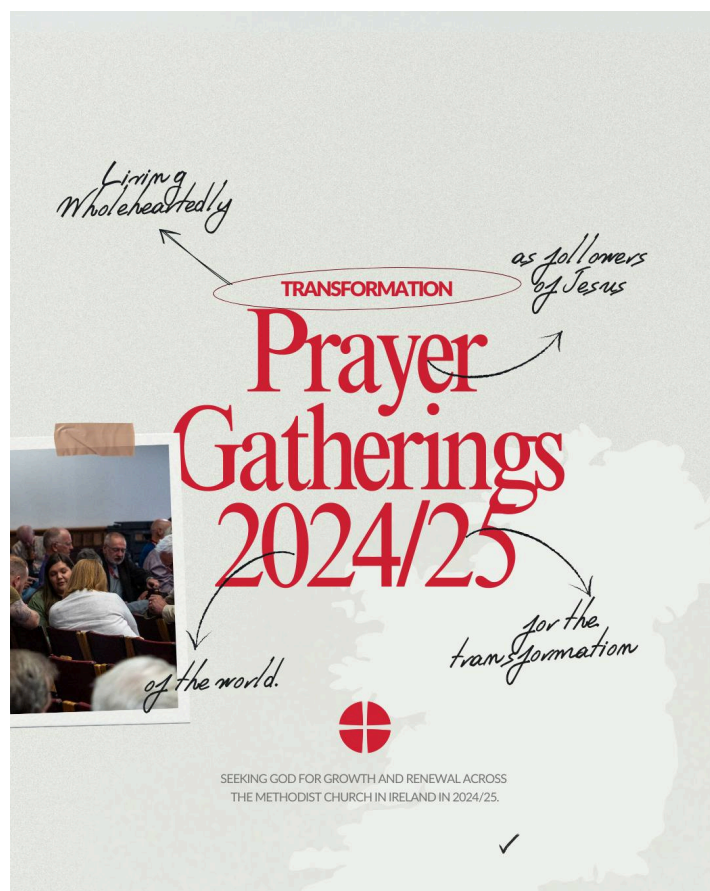
Bishop Sarah of London -

It was a great honour to be present for the State Opening of Parliament, and to hear the King's Speech containing the programme for the upcoming parliamentary session. I look forward very much to engaging with the legislative agenda in the coming months, especially working for the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Archbishop Stephen of York -

It was an honour to be in the House of Lords for the State Opening of Parliament, and to hear His Majesty's Gracious Speech. I give thanks for our democracy, and for this opportunity to look ahead to the coming parliamentary session.

Methodist Church plans Transformation Prayer Gatherings



The Church states - We are encouraging churches to hold a ‘Transformation Prayer Gathering’ in 2024/25 to celebrate God at work and to ask God to transform the world around us.

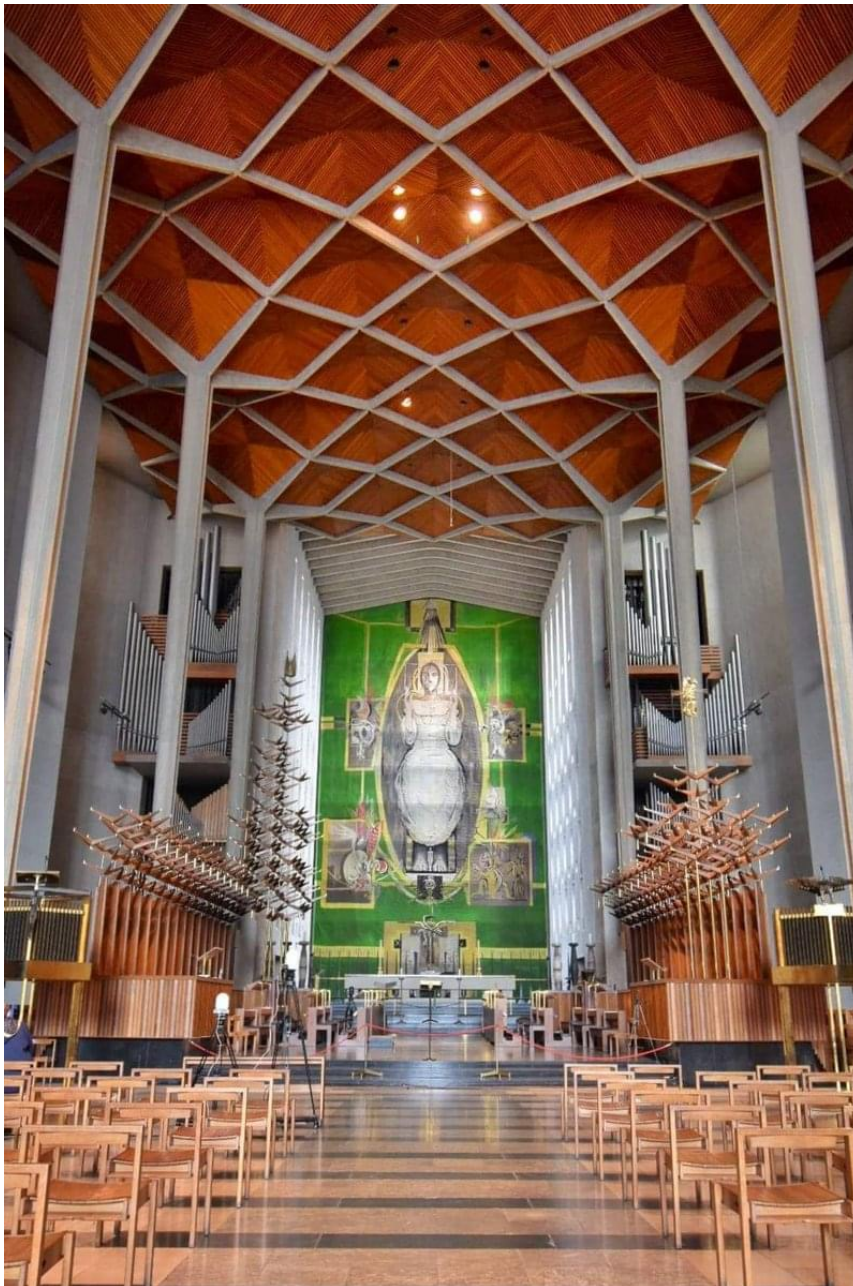
We know that God moves when we gather together to pray and sense that he is inviting us to pray in person this year.

A ‘Transformation Prayer Gathering’ outline will be available from late August for churches to host their own gathering.

July 19, 2024

‘Transformation Prayer Gatherings’ have been arranged in each District, hosted by a local church, and open to anyone from the District to attend.

For dates and more information visit website:
bit.ly/lw2425



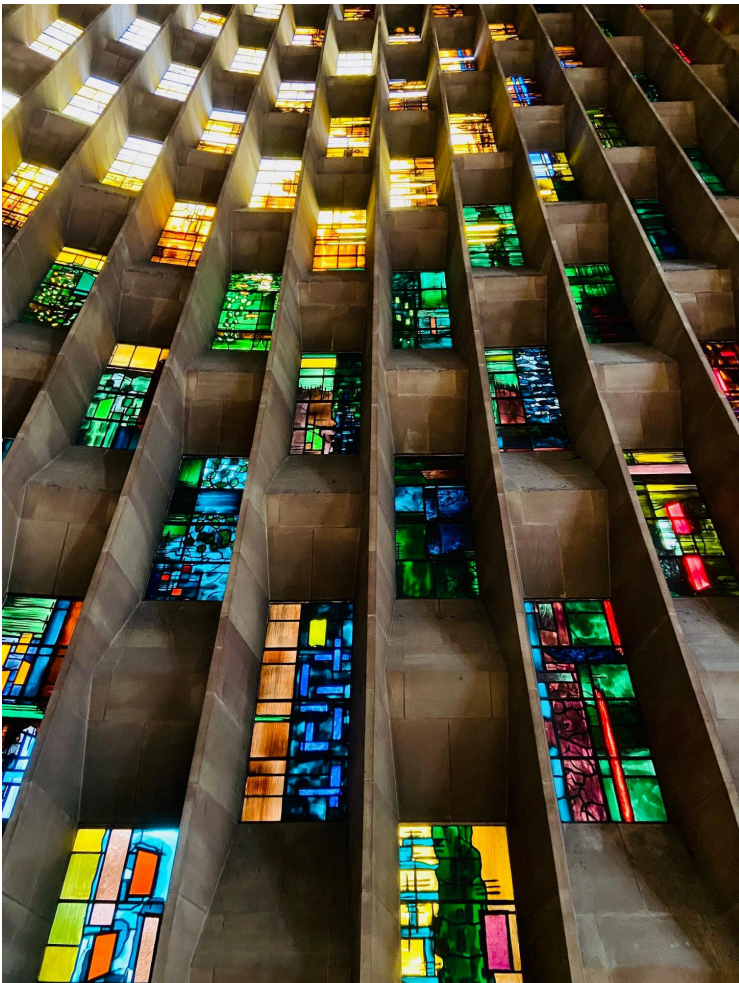
Cathedral Calls

**Come to
Coventry
and Sing
Stanford
Evensong
with
Orchestra**

**An unmissable
opportunity on
Saturday 28
September to
sing in the
beautiful service
of Choral
Evensong in the
equally beautiful**

**surroundings of Coventry Cathedral, alongside
members of Coventry Cathedral Choir, directed by
international conductor Nicholas Cleobury**

July 19, 2024



Hosted by the Royal School of Church Music
More info/booking
<https://www.rscm.org.uk/events/come-and-sing-standford-evensong-with-orchestra/>

Busy week for Canterbury Choir

Last week, the Canterbury Cathedral



July 19, 2024

Choir was recording a new album of music by acclaimed composer (and former Canterbury Cathedral chorister) Gabriel Jackson.

The boy choristers, girl choristers and Lay Clerks all attended recording sessions in the Quire of the Cathedral after hours, and worked extremely hard to perfect their contributions to the recording.

Photo above - Boy and girl choristers, and Lay Clerks, with composer Gabriel Jackson.

Clergy appointments



Abbot of Glenstal Abbey

“The monastic community announces with great joy the election of Father Columba McCann OSB as the seventh Abbot of Glenstal Abbey”.



Downpatrick Parish lay led funeral ministers

Canon John Murray with Dominic Breen, Kathleen Hanna and Betty Laird-Byrne after Mass on Sunday 7th July, when he commissioned them to serve as lay led funeral ministers in the parish.

All three had completed the Living Church course in Newcastle during April and May.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Online Bachelor of Divinity at the University of London



“There’s a crack in everything.... That’s how the light gets in.”
Leonard Cohen

The Music of Leonard Cohen as a window to the God of the Scriptures

A Retreat led by Sean Goan

Friday, 4 - Sunday, 6 October 2024
at Drumalis, Larne offered on a
residential or non-residential basis

Drumalis, 47 Glenarm Road, LARNE, BT40 1DT
Tel 028 28272196/2827 6455
Email drumalis@btconnect.com
Website: <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

The Bachelor of Divinity is one of the oldest programmes at the University of London. It was taught at King’s College London for many years and is held by graduates across the world, including the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The programme is now offered entirely online but the association with King’s remains as, since 2017, the programme has been directed by the University of London Worldwide and hosted by King’s, whose Department of Theology and Religious Studies is in the top ten TRS departments in the UK.

The programme consists of twelve modules and you can pay by module, taking up to six years to complete the full degree programme (shorter programmes are available). Applications for 2024-25 close on 2 September 2024.

July 19, 2024

For further details, see: <https://www.london.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/bd-divinity>

To contact the Programme Team email: divinity@london.ac.uk.

26th International Summer Organ Series 2024 
Church of the Assumption, Tullamore. Concerts start at 8pm.

Tuesday 2nd July
TULLAMORE ACADEMY
CHAMBER CHOIR
CIARÁN BRADY DIRECTOR
GERARD GILLEN ORGAN 

Tuesday 9th July
THOMAS CHARLES MARSHALL
ORGAN
BOGDAN SOFEI
VIOLIN 

Tuesday, 16th July
DÓNAL MCCANN
ORGAN
MARYAM WOCIAL
SOPRANO 

www.tisos.org
This annual series is supported by Offaly County Council, and The Trench Trust
The Trench Trust


Tuesday 23rd July
SOPHIE-VÉRONIQUE
CAUCHEFER-CHOPLIN
ORGAN 

Scan Me for Tickets & Info 

Admission €15 / Concession €10. Includes a post-concert glass of wine!

In the media

UnHerd - God didn't save Donald Trump

In 1981, a bullet narrowly missed the heart of a certain Karol Józef Wojtyła when an aggrieved Turk shot him in the Vatican City. Wojtyła, whose professional title was “Pope John Paul II”, later forgave his would-be assassin, who managed to penetrate the Bishop of Rome with two bullet holes, leading to significant blood loss but without killing him, Alex O’Connor writes.

This being the 64th anniversary of the first apparition of the Virgin Mary at Fátima, she was later invoked as the Pope’s protector that day, and he said himself that a “motherly hand” had guided the bullets to miss his vital organs. I am not the first to wonder why Our Lady of Fátima could not have guided the bullets to miss him altogether.

We have seen a similarly religious response from a similarly religious political milieu following the attempt on Donald Trump’s life on Saturday. Given how close he came to martyrdom in Pennsylvania — turning his head slightly at the exact moment of impact, which was therefore taken by his earlobe rather than his occipital lobe — it has been suggested by a number of political commentators that God had a hand in saving the former president at the last moment. One wonders, as one does of the Secret Service that day, what took him so long.

Megyn Kelly this week provided a useful case study. Reminding her viewers that Trump was shot at 6:11pm, she read a passage from the New Testament: “Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” The citation? Ephesians 6:11. “I’m almost emotional reading it,” she said. “It’s just that what happened to him and our country this weekend is extremely grave and extremely important, and we are all so lucky it wasn’t worse than it was.”

It would take a utilitarian theology of incomprehensible proportions, however, to convince the family of Corey Comperatore, who did catch a bullet that day, that our providential father was controlling its trajectory. How lucky his daughters should feel that the Lord — or perhaps Our Lady of Fátima again? — protected Trump by redirecting those bullets into their dad.

Such is the unthinking theological sloppiness of those who think that God was guiding those bullets, those who insist that Trump is God’s chosen president. This is the same Trump who when asked to name a single Bible verse that he liked, said: “The Bible means a lot to me but I don’t want to get into specifics.” At least he won’t struggle to pick a favourite now.

But it is difficult to imagine how Joe Biden would have reacted in a similar moment. If the bullets didn’t kill him, the Secret Service wrestling him to the ground may well have done. It might have taken him 20 minutes to realise he’d been shot.

July 19, 2024

Can you see him scrambling back to his feet, raising a defiant fist, shouting a battle cry to his supporters? Biden can hardly get through a press conference with any grace, let alone an assassination attempt. Many of those calling for him to step down from the upcoming election are doing so in the hopes of putting forward an alternative candidate who can properly string a sentence together, but we have all just been reminded that, despite how it may seem, politics at the highest level requires more than just rhetorical competence.

To take on the political anomaly of Trump, a robust, suave, fluent combatant is needed. If the case was not already strong enough that Biden is not these things, events in Pennsylvania should bring it into sharp relief. Much of the time, candidates don't win elections; they lose them. Biden is poised for failure. If he gets elected, it will be because of what Americans want him to be, not what he is.

Alex O'Connor is the host of the "Within Reason" YouTube show and podcast. He contributes on X as CosmicSkeptic

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Posted on site early Monday to Saturday