

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Kilimanjaro in Cairncastle

Image of the day

Kilimanjaro in Cairncastle

Parishioners of Cairncastle and Craigyhill on Sunday morning heard from Simon Hunter's recent experience climbing Mt Kilimanjaro for Cancer Focus NI and saw his photos, video clips and medal.

There was also special home baked Kili mountain macaroon treats for coffee afterwards, thanks to a very creative parishioner.

“An avid follower of the Royal Family it was only fitting the parishioners gave Simon a copy of the special edition



August 1, 2023

Coronation Bible now he's king of the mountains!"
Commented the Reverend Arlene Moore.

People and places



New altar dedicated at All Saints Eglantine

On Sunday morning in All Saints' Archbishop Robin Eames, former Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, dedicated a new altar, acolyte torches and a cruet set.



The Altar is in memory of the late Heather and David Kingan. Heather's father was Bishop of Derry and Raphoe from 1970- 1975. The three were members of the parish.

The acolyte torches and cruet set are in memory of the late Jim and Molly McQuaid. Their daughter Karen is the Parish treasurer.

The service of dedication was in the context of a Sung Eucharist led by the rector, the Reverend Jason Kernohan. Lord Eames preached an outstanding sermon.

“Thank you to Jonathan and the Parish choir for such beautiful music. A video of the service will follow,” - parish media.



National Christian Endeavour Convention

The 108th Irish National Christian Endeavour Convention will be held on Saturday 23rd September 2023. Hosted by the Belfast Union, it will be held in the T3 Conference Centre, Vic-Ryn, Lisburn.

The Rev Roland Watt will speak on the theme, “Jesus is Lord of all”.

Roland had worked as a teacher but felt called to the ministry.

It was while serving in Immanuel Presbyterian Church, in Agnes Street, Belfast, that he witnessed the benefit and value of the work of Christian Endeavour. It was here that the first CE in Ireland began in 1889, through the work of Sunday School teacher, Margaret Magill. Each year in Immanuel he enjoyed singing the CE hymn, “Ireland for Christ.”.

August 1, 2023

Now serving in Killymurriss, in rural County Antrim, he has the privilege and responsibility of proclaiming the truth of God's Word as he pastors the flock there.

As he looks forward to speaking at the Convention his desire is that all that will be said and done will be for, "Christ and the Church".

Sinéad O'Connor 'a kind but troubled soul', Archbishop Martin

The leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland has remembered Sinéad O'Connor as "a kind and very compassionate person who reached out to people like herself who had been alienated or excluded".



Archbishop Eamon Martin said that over the last few days people he met or had spoken to had expressed sadness about her passing.

"There is a sense that she was a very special person, a very unique person and quite a complicated and troubled soul," he said.



Well done to Blacksod Bay native Kathleen Nicoll (née Connor), who achieved her dream of hiking Croagh Patrick at the tender age of 88 with her grandchildren and great grandchildren on Sunday

"I think she said that about herself: I am a troubled soul who screams into the microphone."

Dr Martin was speaking ahead of taking part in the annual Reek Sunday pilgrimage climb of Croagh Patrick, Co Mayo.

August 1, 2023

He added: “We have heard lovely stories of somebody who was kind. Clearly her own trauma and her own personal experiences made her a very compassionate person who reached out to the marginalised — she had real empathy. God rest her troubled soul.”

Dr Martin said he would be praying for the singer and her family at Mass on the summit of Croagh Patrick “because sometimes when you think of somebody who is a celebrity you forget that she was a sister, a daughter and a mother”.

He said a lot of people had felt sadness for the musician over the tragic loss of her son Shane and the impact it must have had on her. “A lot of parents have had that experience and I think they heard her story with a lump in their throat.”

The Primate of All Ireland said he was carrying a lot of prayers and intentions with him as he climbed Ireland's holy mountain for the first time as the St Patrick's successor, though he climbed it several times as a priest.

“Fundamentally, this is a place of prayer and a place of pilgrimage,” Dr Martin said.

This year's pilgrimage has been linked to the Church's Year of Vocations to the Priesthood. Courtesy Sarah MacDonald.

From Newtownards to North Donegal

Reverend Chris Matchett has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the new Parish Group of Clondevaddock and Mevagh, in north Donegal.

August 1, 2023

The 58-year-old former accountant, who was born and grew up in Londonderry, served as Rector of St Mark's Church in Newtownards for 12 years and, prior to that, spent



seven years as the incumbent of Magheracross (Ballinamallard), in the Diocese of Clogher. He also served two curacies in Down and Dromore.

It is a “bitter-sweet feeling”, he says, to be leaving St Mark's, where he and his family enjoyed many happy years, but he says he is looking forward to seeing what God has in store for them in this new chapter in their lives and ministry. “We see God's hand in this,” Rev'd Matchett says. “We didn't go looking for the move. We weren't even aware of the vacancy in Clondevaddock, but it was mentioned to us and we thought it could be the right move for us.”

Rev'd Matchett and his wife, Ali, have three grown-up children – the last of whom sat her A-Levels recently – and the couple will be moving to Clondevaddock and Mevagh without their children. “It's a new start for us, but then it's a new start for everyone in the new parish group. It'll be the first time I'll have been responsible for more than one church. I'll be looking after four, now \[the Church of Christ the Redeemer in Rosnakill; All Saints, Portsalon; Leatbeg Parish Church; and Holy Trinity Church in Carrigart].

August 1, 2023

Bishop Andrew Forster says Rev'd Matchett's decision to accept the position of Priest-in-Charge of Clondevaddock and Mevagh is wonderful news for the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe and for the parishioners in north Donegal. "This is an exciting time for Chris and Ali, and for everyone in Clondevaddock and Mevagh. I trust that his new parishioners will welcome Chris and Ali with their customary warmth and generosity, and that they'll offer him their ongoing support and prayers."

News reports

Dean of Southwark appointed

The Bishop of Southwark has appointed The Reverend Dr Mark Oakley as the next Dean of Southwark.

~

Canon Oakley is currently the Dean of Chapel and Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge who commented, "I am very honoured, and a little daunted, to be asked to continue the ministry of the Dean of Southwark, following on from the extraordinary work and presence of Andrew Nunn. I have been grateful all my life for the existence of Southwark Cathedral, for its witness to the gospel through learning and formation, arts and the imagination, local partnerships and a commitment to social justice. I am now deeply grateful to be asked to become a part of its life and mission, and I ask for your prayers as I prepare to join the people of the cathedral and diocese. Our vocation is to embody a sacramental, poetic and just Christian faith that resonates with both joy and integrity. I really look forward to making new friends as we seek to do this together.'



Southwark Cathedral

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun,, Bishop of Southwark said,“Mark is a person of depth, insight and integrity who brings with him a wealth of priestly experience offered in many different contexts. Before St John’s he was a Canon of St Paul’s following on from service in the Diocese in Europe as Chaplain at Copenhagen and Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe. This variety of experience will equip him well for the prominent role he will now take on

August 1, 2023



as Dean of Southwark and I much look forward to working with him.”

Canon Oakley (above) will be installed Dean at Choral Evensong in Southwark Cathedral on Advent Sunday (3 December) at 3pm.

Charity Watchdog examines Soul Survivor

The charity watchdog is examining donations made to Soul Survivor’s gap-year programme – in which Rev Canon Mike Pilavachi allegedly groomed young men –

August 1, 2023

including a £700,000 donation by a Malaysian business tycoon.

Mr Pilavachi, 65, founded the Soul Survivor Watford church and was exposed by The Daily Telegraph in May after victims spoke out for the first time claiming he ran “a cult” in which young men were encouraged to receive full-body oil massages on his bed and engage in vigorous wrestling matches.

Many of the alleged victims first encountered Mr Pilavachi through his church’s gap-year programme, Soul Time, now known as Soul61, which describes itself as a charity that aims to “identify and train future Christian leaders”. Soul61 accounts reveal that its biggest donations since being incorporated in 2011 amount to almost £750,000 and occurred between 2016 and 2019.

Over the course of these three years, two donations of £100,000 and one of £500,000 were made by YTL Utilities UK. Its parent company, YTL Utilities Holdings, is registered in the Cayman Islands. Its grandparent company, YTL Corporation Berhad, is the Malaysian infrastructure conglomerate, run by the Malaysian business tycoon, Tan Sri (Sir) Francis Yeoh, and comprises six listed entities.

The accounts show that the donations were to be used “at the discretion of the charity trustees”, and that they were also gifted “to be used at the discretion of Mike Pilavachi”.

The Charity Commission announced an ongoing compliance case into Soul Survivor Watford, the church linked to Soul61, following revelations uncovered by this newspaper.

August 1, 2023

It can now be revealed that the vast sums of money donated by YTL are being looked into by the watchdog.

In the media

Report 'cuts through' Government hype on Framework: Dodds

BELFAST TELEGRAPH extract -

The Prime Minister's claim that the Windsor Framework removed the Irish Sea border has been “debunked completely” by a House of Lords report, a DUP grandee has claimed, writes Emma Montgomery

Lord Dodds said the UK-EU deal, aimed at reducing red tape on post-Brexit trade, has worsened the situation for business.

He was reacting to a report from a Lords select committee which found that problems remain.

Speaking to former First Minister Dame Arlene Foster on GB News, he said the report “has come to some very serious conclusions that I think will make uncomfortable reading for the government”.

The framework sought to cut the bureaucracy on trade between GB and Northern Ireland created by the protocol. -

Rishi Sunak has been exposed in his false claims over the Irish Sea border and so it would be folly to return to Stormont, says Jim Allister

News Letter - Mr Allister said: “The blatant lies of the prime minister at the Lambeg Cola Cola plant, when he oversold the Windsor Framework as the end of the border in the Irish Sea, are now exposed for all to see. Recognising that because of the unaltered Art 164 of the Withdrawal Agreement, which expressly forbids any change to ‘the essential events’ of the Protocol, TUV called it right when it dubbed the tinkering as the ‘Windsor Whitewash’. No matter how much the prime minister lied and others dithered and equivocated, it was abundantly clear that the Irish Sea Border stayed, that we remained in the EU’s single market for goods and under its Customs Code and, thus, Great Britain was to continue to be designated a foreign country whose goods must be checked when entering the EU territory of Northern Ireland.

“As a colonial rule taker we remain subject to foreign law, jurisdiction and court. And all this for the political purpose of ensuring economic alignment, as a constitutional stepping stone, with the Republic. None of this has changed, indeed the recently published government guidance on the functioning of the Irish Sea border both confirms the reality of what His Majesty’s Government lied about and our detachment from Great Britain. Even the supposedly easier ‘green lanes’ operate exclusively under EU law and oversight.”

Mr Allister added: “To have to even be in a ‘trusted trader scheme’ to trade within your own country is confirmation in itself of the constitutional wedge that is driving us apart.

August 1, 2023

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/2023/07/31/rishi-sunak-has-been-exposed-in-his-false-claims-over-the-irish-sea-border-and-so-it-would-be-folly-to-return-to-stormont-says-jim-allister/content.html>



Memorial to National Army soldiers killed during Civil War unveiled in Dublin

Journal.ie - Defence Forces Chief of Staff paid tribute to the some 810 soldiers killed. THE REDEDICATION OF a memorial to the National Army soldiers killed in the Civil War enables their memory to be rehabilitated, a ceremony in Dublin has heard.

Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Sean Clancy paid tribute to the some 810 soldiers killed serving on the Free State side in the 1922-23 conflict as he addressed the event at Glasnevin cemetery today.

August 1, 2023

Descendants of some of those who died, representative of all four provinces on the island of Ireland, were invited guests at the ceremony, among them relatives of Michael Collins, the commander in chief of the National Army who was killed in 1922. More -

<https://www.thejournal.ie/national-army-me-6132611-Jul2023/>

RTE - At the National Army plot in Glasnevin Cemetery some 183 names have re-emerged from formerly neglected limestone plaques, restored only last year.

<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2023/0730/1397214-civil-war-monument/>



A major traditional music festival in Belfast has concluded with a giant céilí on the slipway where the Titanic was built

RTE - A major traditional music festival in Belfast has concluded with a giant céilí on the slipway where the Titanic was built.

August 1, 2023

This is the fifth year of Belfast Tradfest and organisers are hoping to host Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2026.

Some of the leading exponents of traditional Irish music have participated, including award-winning singer Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh and renowned whistle player Mary Bergin. Organiser Dónal O'Connor said 20,000 people were estimated to have attended concerts, workshops, talks and sessions across the city over the week

<https://www.rte.ie/news/ulster/2023/0730/1397301-giant-ceili-belfast/>

Perspective

We must learn the lessons of the Lord's Prayer - Stephen Cottrell

To know the prayer is not sufficient for it to be in our hearts. We must grow into its vision

In his book on the Lord's Prayer, the New Testament theologian Tom Wright makes the point that the prayer Jesus taught us is "not just the spiritual version of the baby's mug and spoon set" that will teach us how to pray, but "a suit of clothes designed for us to wear in our full maturity" and into which we still have growing to do.

In other words, we say the Lord's Prayer, but also the Lord's Prayer says us. It teaches us who God is. It teaches us how to pray. And it teaches us what to pray for. Even the first two words are a revolution. Although there are a few other



examples of calling God Father in the Old Testament, this was relatively unknown. But, for Jesus, it is the starting point of his relationship with God, and it is the relationship he offers to us. Therefore, to call God Father, in the same way that Jesus did, is to enter into a relationship with God.

In this relationship, we understand ourselves to be profoundly loved, and begin to live – as Jesus did – as a child of God’s kingdom, following God’s ways, and seeking God’s truth. We are praying, says Pope Francis, to “the one who has given us life”. Not some cosmic entity, but a loving father.

A few weeks ago, I found myself a little misunderstood when I said that some who have never known a father present in their life, or, worse, were abused or neglected by their father, may find this word challenging.

The very powerful first word of the prayer is ‘our’ ... saying this prayer commits us to each other

As the Church of England and all mainstream denominations come to terms with a shameful history of clerical abuse, being mindful of these things is really important. But what I wasn't saying is that we should stop using the word. Simply that we need to be sensitive as we lead people in prayer.

As Jesus taught us, we pray to the God who is “Our Father”, and we help those whose experience of earthly fathers has been negative to discover the healing love of the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ. And as has always been the case, we use other language to describe God, as well. What I was actually talking about was the very powerful first word of the Lord's Prayer, which is “our”.

At a recent audience I had with the Pope, he concluded the meeting by inviting us to pray together. As we uttered that opening word, it powerfully struck me that saying this prayer commits us to each other. If God is our heavenly father, then we who say this prayer are sisters and brothers, and with this comes a profoundly important set of responsibilities and obligations about how we order our lives and the world.

And the fact that it is our God, not my God, runs through the whole prayer. Not my daily bread – but ours. Not my sins forgiven – but everyone's. Not my will be done – but God's. Indeed, is there a more important lesson for our world to learn than to understand what it means to ask for daily bread, to live with enough, and to find ways of sharing the



world's resources? And because it is our Father, not my Father, then the commitments we have to each other extend beyond usual human boundaries. The kingdom that we pray for is not a place, but a rule of love.

In the 8th century, no less a figure than the Venerable Bede, one of the towering intellectual forces of his age, wrote to a bishop in the north, exhorting him to teach people the Lord's Prayer in their mother tongue. I think we should be doing the same today, and I intend to make this a large part of my ministry in the north of England over the next few years.

Of course, many people still know this extraordinary prayer. But many don't. And even those of us who do know it, and say it every day, still need to grow into its challenging, capacious vision. Because we know it so well, we can easily

August 1, 2023

take its meaning for granted. Knowing it by heart doesn't mean it is in our hearts. We need to say it again. We need to learn its lessons of love.

Stephen Cottrell is the Archbishop of York

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