

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Patrick's Belfast

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St Patrick's Belfast

For more than two centuries, St Patrick's has faithfully provided for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the people of Belfast, as well as workers and visitors to Ireland's second city. It has also played a significant role in the Catholic Diocese of Down and Connor.

St Patrick's was, for most of its existence, Belfast's Catholic Pro-Cathedral. Most Episcopal Consecrations took place



here; one of the most important figures in 19th Century Belfast's History – Bishop Patrick Dorrian – is buried within its walls.

The present Church was opened in 1877. Famously built “by the pennies of the poor”, it replaced an earlier, much smaller building begun in 1812 and opened in 1815, the year of Napoleon's defeat in the Battle of Waterloo. It is the fourth St Patrick's Church in Belfast.

The first was reputedly founded by St Patrick himself - now in the Shankill area of Belfast. (Shankill means 'Old Church' in the Irish Language). This was replaced by a second in the High Middle Ages. Catholic Churches were taken from their

worshippers in the Reformation and, eventually, Catholicism banned.

A change in political and social climate in Belfast allowed the construction of a Catholic Church in 1784 – St Mary’s Chapel Lane, the Mother Church of Belfast. By 1812, Catholics were becoming confident enough to build a second Church on Belfast’s main thoroughfare – Donegall Street – and a residence for the Catholic Bishop and his clergy. That building, the current Presbytery, is Belfast’s oldest, continuously-inhabited house.

The parish is a growing and vibrant faith community. Not only does it provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of local residents and city-workers, but it also serves a busy hospital, a large primary school, a number of residential and care homes for the elderly and the new Ulster University Belfast Campus. While St. Patrick’s serves a community and district which is constantly changing and developing, its calling to bring Jesus to the heart of the city remains constant.

People and places

Reception for St Patrick’s Cathedral Volunteers

Last Saturday, a number of the Cathedral Volunteers (tour guides, stewards, and bell ringers) attended a drinks reception in the Deanery.



This was an opportunity for the Cathedral staff to thank the volunteers at the end of this academic year for all of the hard work that they had put in over the year. Thanks to the Dean and Mrs Morton for hosting and providing the wonderful food and drinks.

This event was also an opportunity to thank Douglas Poynton (pictured next to the Dean) – a volunteer of almost twenty years – for his lengthy service to the Cathedral, who retired earlier in the month.

Yesterday was the 1st August, Lamma Day. An old English festival which was a sort of mini-Corpus Christi, at one time the first fruits of the harvest were gathered and made into bread for the Holy Communion. In Preston, Paignton, there



is "Lammas Lane", which is a street name of medieval origin. (Picture courtesy of Justin Trevelyan Parker)

New Area Dean for Mourne

Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore has appointed the rector of Newcastle, Revd Myrtle Morrison, as Area Dean for Mourne in Dromore Diocese.

Myrtle has been rector of Newcastle since October 2021. Prior to that she spent 20 years leading St Saviour's Craigavon, initially as Evangelist-in-charge and then as Priest-in-charge. Myrtle joined Church Army in the mid-eighties and was ordained in the Church of Ireland in 2017.



Myrtle said of her appointment, “I am grateful to Bishop David for the opportunity to serve as Area Dean for Mourne. I will be following in the footsteps of Bishop Darren McCartney who has led the deanery for the last four years. This will be a first for me and I look forward to learning the ropes and working alongside my colleagues.”

Rathmichael Parishioners commissioned for work in Kenya

A team of 12 people from Rathmichael Parish in Dublin is preparing to travel to Western Kenya at the end of August.

The trip is part of a developing link between Rathmichael and Wandeché Primary School in the Diocese of Maseno North in Kenya.

During their 10 day visit the team will refurbish the school and enhance the education environment for both students and teachers.



Some of the members of the team from Rathmichael Parish that will travel to the Parish of Wandeché in Kenya with Archbishop Michael Jackson who commissioned them.

The team, which is led by the Rector, the Revd Sean Hanily, was commissioned by Archbishop Michael Jackson during a special service in Rathmichael last Thursday evening (July 27). In his sermon the Archbishop said that the team was being commissioned for the work of God.

“This work will take them to the Diocese of Maseno North in Kenya. This work will connect two parts of the Anglican Communion in ways of which we might only have dreamed. For my part, I have The Lambeth Conference 2022, which began yesterday one year ago, to thank for getting to know Bishop Charles who will welcome those who come from this

August 2, 2023

diocese to his diocese. I also have Mr Geoffrey Perrin to thank because he took up the vision of a partnership such as this when I suggested it to him, coming out of Lambeth 2022. I also have all of you, not least the rector the Reverend Sean Hanily, to thank for taking the next steps to implement this vision. In worship and in prayer and hope, we commission them all this evening in their parish church of Rathmichael for a service of God that will be transformative of their lives and of the lives of those they meet on their return. It will also transform the lives of those with whom they partner in Maseno North. We wish them well and we live in hope,” he stated.

The team are Sean Hanily, Geoffrey Perrin, Fiona Ashe, Ben Allison, Anthony Perrin, Aine Halligan, Robert Gallagher, Peter Harty, Jan Ovington, Peadar Bruton, Aidan Reilly and Simon O’Connor.

The plan to refurbish Wandecche Primary School follows a visit to the Parish of Wandecche in March when the Revd Sean Hanily and Geoffrey Perrin assessed what needed to be done.

“We found a community of students and teachers who strive to do their very best in education to help the next generation of young people educate themselves and build brighter futures; but they truly struggle with what they have currently,” Sean said. “It was an emotional trip and has left a lasting impact. I am very excited to be returning for 10 days with our team to carry out the main refurbishment of the school and enhance the educational environment for these young people. It is the first stage of a five–year link between our home parish and the school in Kenya.”

August 2, 2023

The parish has a GoFundMe page to raise the necessary funds for the refurbishment project. All donations no matter how big or small will be very welcome.

<https://gofund.me/ccc40779>

Hillsborough Parish Building on Faith Malawi



“Today we dedicated two new Habitat homes, and celebrated with Iddah and Margret, their families, and the whole village!”

It was a great celebration of the partnership between Habitat in Northern Ireland and in Malawi, the village, the families, and Hillsborough Parish Church - through funds raised,



work done, prayers prayed, and bricks laid, two homes have been built because of the partnership between people in Northern Ireland and Malawi.

Iddah and Margret both said how overwhelmed and thankful they were. With a new home and a new toilet block, they said all their problems will be gone. They thanked our team and Habitat for Humanity Malawi.

The chief said how thankful Malawians are that we have worked to build new homes to improve people's lives. He said we have done great work in his village, but hopes we keep working and keep building.

We hope stories from Malawi will inspire people to consider supporting Habitat for Humanity - because they will keep

August 2, 2023

building each and every day, until everyone has a decent place to live.



For our rest and relaxation day, we went on safari and enjoyed time together as a team, reflecting on our week of building.

We started the day at church in Mulanje Mission, where we were very warmly welcomed. It was especially exciting to be in the church Gavin called home for the first few years of his life!

One of the elders thanked us for demonstrating God's love in such a practical way, and encouraged us to continue working to help people in Mulanje, and across Africa. It was so exciting to hear how active Mulanje Mission is in sending



people out to minister in Mozambique and South Sudan; and a real challenge to us as we think about how to continue to build the kingdom wherever we are after building in faith in Malawi!

News reports

Pope urges Russian 'brothers' to restore Black Sea grain deal

Pope Francis on Sunday called on Russia to reverse its decision to abandon the Black Sea grain deal, under which it had allowed Ukraine to export grain from its seaports despite the ongoing war.

August 2, 2023

"I appeal to my brothers, the authorities of the Russian Federation, so that the Black Sea initiative may be resumed and grain may be transported safely," Francis said during his weekly Angelus message.

Global wheat prices have spiked since Russia on July 17 quit the pact, which was brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July 2022, and began targeting Ukrainian ports and grain infrastructure on the Black Sea and Danube River.

Addressing crowds in St Peter's Square, the pope urged the faithful to continue praying "for martyred Ukraine, where war is destroying everything, even grain," calling this "a grave insult to God."

The leader of the world's nearly 1.4 billion Catholics said "the cry of millions of brothers and sisters who are suffering from hunger is rising up to the sky".

Russia walked out of the Black Sea deal after saying its demands to ease sanctions on its own grain and fertilizer exports had not been met. Moscow also complained that not enough grain had reached poor countries.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin offered to supply Africa with grain, some of it for free, but the chair of the African Union, Azali Assoumani, responded that this "may be not quite enough".

Since the conflict in Ukraine broke out last year, Francis has repeatedly condemned Russia's war of aggression, but has also sought to keep an open channel of communication with Moscow, with limited results.

In May, he tasked the head of the Italian bishops' conference, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, to act as a peace envoy. Zuppi has so far been to Kyiv, Moscow and Washington and is working on the repatriation of children from Russia and Russia-controlled areas to Ukraine.

In the media

Anti-slavery activist Douglass back 'among people he loved' as statue unveiled in Belfast

Belfast Telegraph - Frederick Douglass is back “amongst the people he loved” after a statue of the anti-slavery campaigner was unveiled in Belfast.

Douglass was born into slavery, but managed to escape in 1838 and went on to become a national leader of the abolitionist movement in the US, known for his eloquent speeches and writings. He first visited Belfast in 1845 at the invitation of the Belfast Anti-Slavery Society and returned for a second visit in 1846.

A statue of the former slave-turned-writer and statesman is now on display in Lombard Street in the city centre.

Professor Christine Kinealy, the director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, is the author of *Frederick Douglass And Ireland: In His Own Words*.

August 2, 2023

At the unveiling of the statue Dr Kinealy told of Douglass's significance to Belfast.

“Frederick Douglass is increasingly a symbol of international social justice,” she said.

“This is something that's very dear to many people within Belfast, so I hope this place becomes a rallying point for people who want to effect real change and to have a more inclusive, equitable future for all people of Ireland.”

BBC News - A life-size bronze statue of the black American anti-slavery activist Frederick Douglass has been unveiled in Belfast city centre.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66358247>



13th century High Altar and tombs found at Exeter Cathedral

BBC News - During recent investigations in the Exeter Cathedral Quire, archaeologists have discovered the

August 2, 2023

original High Altar and the stone-lined tombs of 13th century Bishop, William Brewer, & 12th century Bishop, William Warelwast. The Quire project is part of our 2020s Development Appeal Project and is supported by Valencia Com Fund. Read more at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-66336019>

Court: Priest accused of historic sexual offences

Belfast Telegraph - A Co. Tyrone priest who requested a leave of absence earlier this year while a serious safeguarding investigation was carried out has appeared in court on historic sexual offences against two males.

Canon Patrick McEntee (69), from Esker Road, Dromore, is charged with indecently assaulting a complainant between 1980 and 1981.

He is further alleged to have twice indecently assaulted a second complainant on dates between 1988 and 1989.

A police officer aware of the facts of the case told Enniskillen Magistrates Court the charges could be connected.

Canon McEntee spoke only to confirm his identity and that he understood the charges against him.

No details surrounding the circumstances of the alleged offences were disclosed during the short hearing although it is understood they relate to Canon McEntee's time in Co Fermanagh.

August 2, 2023

BBC News -A County Tyrone priest has appeared in court charged with indecent assault against two males.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66343495>

Faughan Valley woodland trails open to public

BBC News -Faughan Valley is a mix of ancient and newly-planted woodlands, something the Woodland Trust's estate manager Dave Scott said makes it particularly special.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66360614>

The truth about heat pumps and the power needed to run them

BBC News - As the world moves away from fossil fuels, we will be saying goodbye to our gas fires and boilers - and instead electrifying the heating systems in our homes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-66359093>

Perspective

Country singer Dolly Parton

Country singer Dolly Parton wrote the songs "I Will Always Love You" and "Jolene" on the same night.

When the first song was at the top of the charts in 1974, Elvis wanted to record his own version of the song. Dolly was interested until Colonel Tom Parker, Elvis' manager, said that it was standard procedure that when the king of rock and roll covered a song - half of the rights to that song



would go to him in the future.

She refused it.

"I said, 'I'm really, really sorry' and cried all night. It was terrible for me, on the one hand, it's Elvis. People told me: "You are crazy." It's Elvis Presley...'

but I just couldn't do it. Something told me in my heart not to do it and I didn't. I know he would rock with that song. But I couldn't. And then Whitney Houston came along with her version and I made enough money from the rights to buy Dollywood."

She grew up in severe poverty and no one famous has done more for the education of the poor than her.

August 2, 2023

In 1990, the percentage of students who did not graduate from high school in her hometown was over 30%. She introduced the "Buddy Program", where all high school graduates received a nice sum when they graduated. It wasn't just a waste of money, she personally came and explained the concept to them - everyone should find a buddy, and whoever doesn't succeed she will find one for them. Everyone had to sign that they will graduate and do everything in their power to ensure that their buddy also graduates. She taught young people about friendship and helping.

The number of school dropouts dropped to below 6% and has remained so until today.

When 900 families lost their homes in the 2016 fires, she paid each family \$1,000 for the next five months. When she came to the bank to finish the paperwork, she gave each family another \$5,000 to find. A total of nine million dollars.

Also, her work - Imagination Library from 1995, was inspired by her realization that young people in rural areas and poor families already fall behind when they start school and that this prevents them from pursuing higher education. The goal of her program was for every child in her district to receive one book, once a month, from birth to school, completely free of charge, without any conditions. It started as an initiative in her hometown and has spread to a huge number of countries around the world.

By 2018, over 100 million books were distributed in this way.

August 2, 2023

She is also known for her witty statements, at the beginning of her career she said:

“I'm not offended by jokes about stupid blondes because I know I'm not stupid... and I'm not really blonde either.”

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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