

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Rostrevor pilgrimage

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Rostrevor pilgrimage

Parish Pilgrimage to Holy Cross Abbey

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St John's Parish, Falls Road, had a fabulous day on Thursday for their Parish Pilgrimage to Holy Cross Abbey, Rostrevor.

The group said, "It was a pleasure to join the Benedictine community for Mass, afternoon prayer and to hear about their work. Thank you for hosting us.

"The rest of the day was spent enjoying the beauty of creation around us with great company, rich conversations and a wonderful meal by the sea before heading home".

People and places

From New Zealand to Sligo for a very special wedding

There was a wonderful celebration at Killanley Church recently - it was a very special and historic occasion when the Rev Caroline Morrow solemnised the marriage of her son, Richard and daughter-in-law, Kryselle.

Weddings are something that are rare in Killanley Church, but last month there was a very special day at Killanley Church

The couple had returned from New Zealand to get married and for the Rev. Caroline Morrow, it was indeed a momentous occasion. The groom is her son.

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It is not too often a mother gets to solemnise her son and daughter in laws marriage.

On this historic occasion Killanley Church wished the happy couple, Richard and Kryselle, every blessing as they begin their married life together.



Magheracross Parish volunteers finish major stage in project

Another bunch of happy workers who have removed the scaffolding from the church within six days enabling builders and painters.



A piping day at Newcastle

Last Saturday Churches in Newcastle were busy fundraising by providing catering and parking for the Heart o' Down Piping

Championships in the County Down resort.

Big congratulations to one of the young Drum Majors Charlotte Adamson who was competing at her first competition and won 3rd Place in the Novice Juvenile Grade at the Heart o' Down Championships.

Charlotte attends the Drum Major classes in Reivers House and everyone in the Schomberg Society and its Tutor Emma Barr are very proud of her results.



Strong Portadown support for Christian Aid

Christian Aid has a wonderful supporter in Moira Stirling (first left) who has been in touch with CA to let them know that the Portadown Christian Aid Committee raised more than £10,000 during the last year.

Moira and the other members of the Portadown Committee raised some of the money by holding monthly soup lunches at Armagh Road Presbyterian Church, and boosted their total with bucket collections and church collections during Christian Aid Week.

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The bucket collections were held in Portadown town centre and in three local businesses - the Brownstown supermarket and two filling stations, one on the Gilford Road and another near the hospital. Moyra and Christian Aid have expressed thanks to the owners, staff and customers of these businesses for their very generous donations.

During the bucket collections, Moyra was encouraged by conversations with members of the public, including with a number of newcomer families who have moved to live here from some of the countries in which we work.

Moyra, who grew up in Holywood, County Down, has been supporting Christian Aid for an incredible 56 years. One Sunday when she was still a teenager, sitting in her church at High Street Holywood Presbyterian Church, the minister Rev Ross Gamble asked for a volunteer to organise the Christian Aid group - and the rest is history.

Moyra continued her support for Christian Aid when she married and moved to Portadown more than 40 years ago, becoming so synonymous with our charity that she's known there as 'Mrs Christian Aid'.

Thanks to Moyra, and all the Portadown volunteers, for another fantastic year's fundraising. Their incredible kindness is bringing hope to people living in desperate poverty.

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Down & Dromore tributes to US Bishop Dan Herzog

Bishop Harold Miller recalls the ministry with Down & Dromore diocese of Bishop Dan Herzog -

Bishop Dan Herzog, well-known to many in the diocese of Down and Dromore, departed this world on 4 August 2023. Dan had suffered a long and sometimes painful battle with neurosarcoidosis. He died at the age of 82.

Liz and I met Dan and Carol at a SOMA conference preceding the 1998 Lambeth Conference. Dan and I had just recently been consecrated bishops, and we found an immediate and strange affinity. Dan came from the very Anglo-Catholic diocese of Albany in New York State, and I was from the more low church diocese of Down and Dromore, but our hearts beat with the same passions: a passion for the Word of God, for evangelism and for growing Spirit-filled churches. That was to be the beginning of a 20-year link which blessed so many on both sides of the Atlantic.

Those who met Dan will remember him for his enthusiasm, humour, honesty and intelligence, along with many other things. He was quite the extrovert, and never minded being asked to speak at the drop of a hat. His love for Ireland came partly from having a Catholic mother with Irish roots but he also grew up near the Canadian border, where Protestantism and even Orange lodges were well known. He was always up to date with the politics of this island. Dan



Bishop Dan Herzog

and Carol visited us so often (clergy conferences, Summer Madness, preaching, St Patrick's Days, Diocesan Synods, etc) that neither of us could begin to count the number of times. In his last six months, he said that Ireland was the only place he longed to travel to again.

Bishop Dan lived through an extraordinarily difficult time in the Episcopal Church. It was not easy to lead a largely conservative diocese in a church which was becoming increasingly liberal both in doctrine and in ethics. He resisted with all his might but found twice over that TEC was no longer his home. For a short period he returned to the Roman Catholic Church, but died as a member of the Anglican Church in North America, having planted a new church of that denomination at 80 years of age.

In June, knowing that Dan was probably nearing the end, I asked if there was anything I could do, and he invited me to come to see him one more time. I did that, just a week before he died. Those were precious days. His mind was as sharp as a razor, heightened by the fact that his body was

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so weak; his humour was the same as ever; his honesty in speaking about death was wonderful; and his faith in Jesus Christ and the Gospel was firm and unwavering.

In my last hour with him, after reading the Prayers of Preparation for Death from the Book of Common Prayer, I also offered him the last verse of the hymn 'O sacred head':

Be thou my consolation
my shield when I must die,
remind me of thy passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold thee,
upon thy cross shall dwell,
my heart by faith enfold thee;
who dieth thus, dies well.

Dan and I never agreed about prayers for the departed. He used to say that I would be better to go first, because he would pray for my soul, whereas if he went first, I wouldn't pray for his!

Well, our last words were glorious. I said 'Dan, this is the last time we will meet in this world; the next time we will meet in glory.' 'We will!' he declared!

And I say 'Amen' to that. We declared with full assurance that he who is in Christ rests in peace and will rise in glory.

I don't think I will ever see the like of Bishop Dan Herzog again. Thank God for giving him to us. Please pray for his wife Carol, and the family as they face their loss, that they may know the peace and presence of the Lord he served.

Bishop David McClay writes:

“Bishop Harold has written the above very fitting tribute to Bishop Dan Herzog who died in his home on Friday 4 August.

“I’d like to add my personal condolences and the sympathy of the clergy and people of Down and Dromore to Carol and to Bishops Dan’s family.

“Over the years of his visits to Down and Dromore I was time and time again strengthened and encouraged by Bishop Dan’s prayers and words of wisdom. I was encouraged often by his courage and absolute commitment to the word of God.

He had a passionate love and commitment to Christ which was infectious. The church today desperately needs leaders with his courage, boldness, and sold-out devotion to Jesus.

“I also loved Dan’s sense of humour who, after I became bishop with a twinkle in his eye and anticipating the answer, inquired what vestments I had ordered.

When I gave him the details he answered, ‘Not bad for a starter kit’. We laughed and then he prayed with me.

“May all who knew Dan be encouraged to pursue Christ as he did and may those who loved him most know God’s grace and strength.”

News reports

Evangelical revival film **Jesus Revolution** hits Netflix

A movie telling the story of a famous Evangelical revival has hit Netflix in America, and it's already trending.

Jesus Revolution – one of the biggest faith films of 2023 – tells the story of a revival in the early 1970s, in Riverside California.

The movie stars Kelsey Grammar, who played Frasier in the television show of the same name.

The Hollywood star plays middle-aged pastor Chuck Smith, who was instrumental in seeing thousands of young Christians baptised in Riverside. Fellow street pastor and evangelist Lonnie Frisbee is played by Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus Christ in *The Chosen*.

The story follows the unlikely friendship of straight-laced pastor Smith and Christian hippie Frisbee, as they work together to evangelise to thousands of young people, before a rift breaks the pair apart.

One of the teens that came to faith via the Jesus movement – Greg Laurie – now leads Harvest Christian Fellowship. The film largely follows his perspective of the events.

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However, UK Christians will be disappointed to learn the film is only available on Netflix within the United States, for now.

Lionsgate's Jesus Revolution is available to watch at select cinemas across the United Kingdom.

The film has been ranked 7.10/10 on rating platform IMDb.

Franklin Graham returns to preach at UK venue that banned him over 'hate speech'

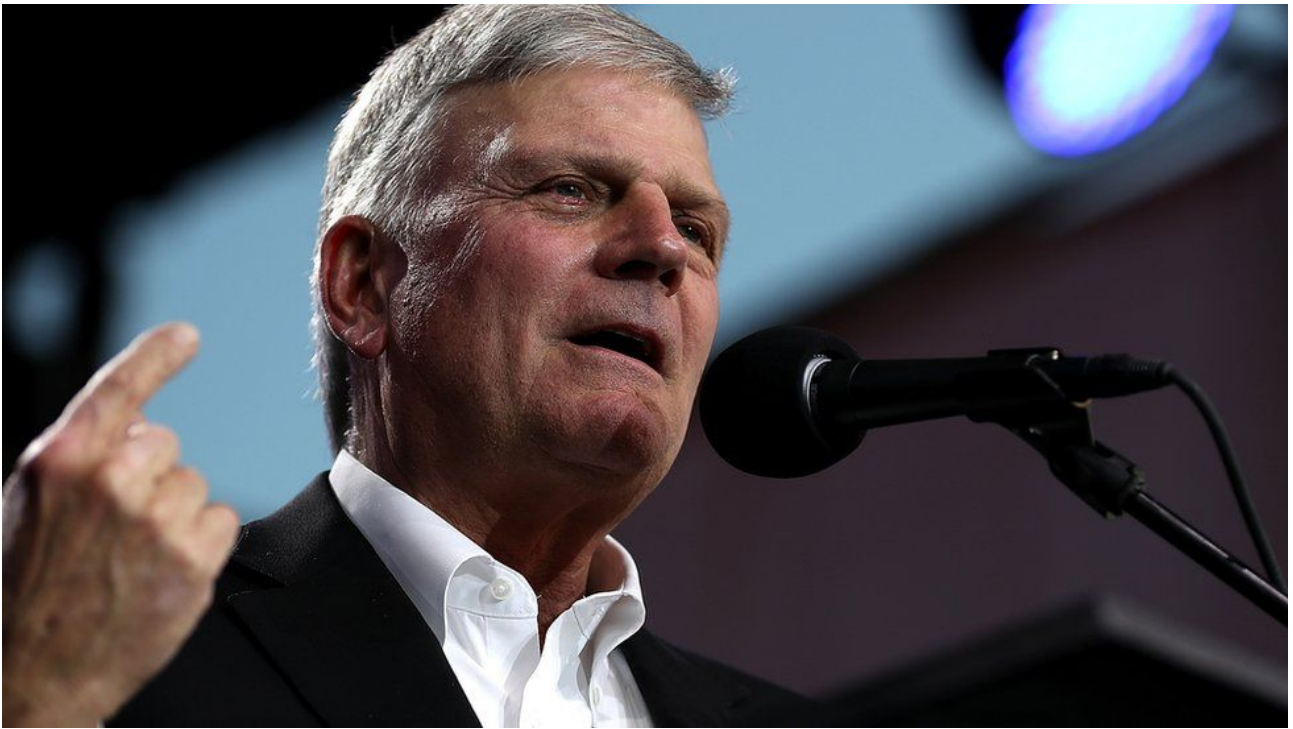
US evangelist Franklin Graham has announced he is to return to Glasgow's OVO Hydro arena after successfully winning a legal battle having had a prior booking cancelled by the venue.

The son of late preacher Billy Graham was banned by owners Scottish Event Campus (SEC) from holding an evangelistic outreach in 2020 for fears he would make homophobic and Islamophobic comments.

It was part of a series of cancellations by venues across the UK.

After taking legal action against a number of the arenas, Graham finally carried out a UK tour last year with events in Newport, Liverpool, Sheffield and London with thousands attending each stop.

He'll now return for an event in London on 26th August 2023 and then Glasgow in June 2024



US evangelist Franklin Graham

Speaking about the new dates, Graham said: "We are excited to return to London again this year and to have an opportunity to preach the Gospel in Glasgow.

"We are grateful for the thousands of Christians and hundreds of churches that have stood alongside us in recent years and continued praying for this tour to come to their cities.

"We saw hundreds of people turn to Jesus Christ in faith last year, and we believe this is God's timing for many more people in London and Glasgow to hear the message of God's great love for them."

The events are free to attend hosted by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in partnership with local churches.

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The Glasgow date brings an end to a saga which will have lasted 5 years.

Opposition to his tour saw political leaders and even bishops from the Church of England speaking out against Franklin Graham.

However summing up his verdict in the legal challenge against SEC, Sheriff John McCormick said he found no evidence that any hate speech would be delivered by the evangelist.

The judge labelled the cancellation a "thinly veiled exercise in virtue signaling" by the SEC who "bowed to public pressure, spurred on and whipped up by political leaders online".

Pope Francis draws more than a million pilgrims to vigil in Portugal

An estimated 1.5 million young people filled a field Saturday in the Portuguese capital for Pope Francis' World Youth Day vigil, braving scorching heat to secure a spot for the evening prayer and to camp out overnight and be in place for his final farewell Mass on Sunday morning.

Temperatures soared to 38 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) on Saturday in Lisbon and were forecast to top 40 C (104 F) on Sunday. The heat forced pilgrims to shelter under umbrellas and makeshift shades of plastic canvas sheets tied between



trash bins in the otherwise exposed field on the edge of the River Tagus.

Crews blew misters at the pilgrims to try to cool them down as they made their way into the venue, many flying their national flags. They formed long lines in the heat of the day to fill water bottles from what organizers said were more than 400 faucets around the field.

Smoke from a spate of wildfires that broke out around Portugal during a weekend spike in temperatures cast a

haze over the sky as they arrived on foot from all around the city for one of the liturgical highlights of the Catholic youth festival. Citing local organizers, the Vatican said an estimated 1.5 million people were on hand.

Francis was presiding over the evening vigil after spending the morning at the Catholic shrine in Fatima.

There, he ditched his prepared speech and a prayer for peace, the third time he has opted to speak casually to the



crowds in his native Spanish. The prayer had been expected to be a highlight of Francis' visit to Fatima, given the shrine's century-old affiliation with exhortations of peace and conversion in Russia and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Francis instead "prayed silently for peace, with pain," while meditating for a long period before a statue of the Virgin Mary, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said. And the Vatican later posted the prayer on the platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

An estimated 200,000 turned out for Francis' visit to Fatima, packing the central esplanade long before the red-tinted moon set and the sun rose. Nearby wildfires turned the sky smoky black and sent ash snowing down on the crowd.

"We are here with great joy," said Maria Florido, a 24-year-old Spaniard who also saw Francis in Lisbon. "We woke up very early to come here and see the pope ... and we're here with great enthusiasm."

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The Fatima story dates back to 1917, when according to tradition, Portuguese siblings Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia said the Virgin Mary appeared to them six times and confided to them three secrets. The first two described an apocalyptic image of hell, foretold the end of World War I and the start of World War II, and portended the rise and fall of Soviet communism.

In 2000, the Vatican disclosed the long-awaited third secret, describing it as foretelling the May 13, 1981, assassination attempt against St. John Paul II in St. Peter's Square, which fell on the anniversary of the original vision.

According to later writings by Lucia, who became a nun and died in 2005, Russia would be converted and peace would reign if the pope and all the bishops of the world consecrated Russia to the "Immaculate Heart of Mary." Lucia later claimed that John Paul fulfilled that prophecy during a 1984 Mass, even though he never specified Russia in the prayer.

Fatima has long captivated Catholics, because of its blending of mystical, Marian apparitions, apocalyptic prophecies about the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the death of a pope. While Saturday's wildfires and related ashfall were easily explained, they also harked back to another element of the Fatima phenomenon, an unusual weather phenomenon known as the "Miracle of the Sun."

According to legend, on Oct. 13, 1917, the Fatima "seers" predicted that the Virgin would perform a miracle that day, and tens of thousands of people flocked to Fatima. They saw what witnesses reported was a vision of the sun

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“spinning” in the sky and zigzagging toward Earth.

Bishop of Derry at Lisbon pilgrimage

Vatican Media had said before the trip that Francis would pray for peace in Ukraine and the world while in

Fatima. It seemed logical, given Francis had already consecrated both Russia and Ukraine to Mary in a prayer for peace following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, essentially fulfilling Sr. Lucia's exhortation.

In the prayer posted on the platform X by the @Pontifex account but not read aloud, Francis didn't name either country but consecrated the church and world, “especially those countries at war,” to Mary. “Open paths where it

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seems that none exist,” he wrote. “Loosen the tangles of self-centeredness and the snares of power.”

Fatima Bishop Jose Ornelas made a prayer for Ukraine explicit in his remarks. “We associate ourselves to Your Holiness’ prayer for peace, for which this sanctuary is profoundly identified, thinking in particular of the war in Ukraine and so many other conflicts in the world,” he said.

In explaining the changes, Vatican spokesman Bruni said Francis “always addresses firstly the people he meets, as a shepherd, and speaks accordingly.” The 86-year-old Francis often deviates from his prepared remarks, even more when speaking in his native Spanish. Bruni denied the changes had any other serious reason, including with his eyesight.

Francis has been hospitalized twice this year, including in June when he spent nine days in the hospital recovering from abdominal surgery to repair a hernia and remove scar tissue on his intestine. Saturday was perhaps the most grueling day of his five-day visit to Portugal, given the round-trip helicopter ride to Fatima and a planned prayer vigil that wasn’t expected to begin until his usual bedtime in Rome.

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