

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Columb's Derry

August 15,2023

People and places

Heritage Week puts spotlight on little known Laois national monument



*Killeshin Church with its carved Romanesque doorway.
Photo: Laois Heritage Office*

A hidden historic gem in the southeast corner of Laois will be put under the spotlight during Heritage Week.

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Killeshin Church is a 12th-century Romanesque church and National Monument located near the Killkenny and Carlow borders. The beautifully carved doorway at the 12th Century Church is seen as one of the best examples in Ireland of Romanesque carving, Conor Ganly writes in the Leinster Express.

To give more people an insight into its beauty and importance, the Church will be the subject of a guided heritage tour of by Laois Archaeologist, Sean Murray hosted by the Laois Public Participation Network.

For more info on this free event contact danbergin@laoiscoco.ie or telephone: 086 035 2107
Booking vial www.laoisppn.ie

The event takes place on Saturday, August 19 11am

Remembering Omagh

The victims and survivors of the Omagh bomb atrocity were remembered ton Sunday afternoon at a Service of Reflection and Prayer at the town's Memorial Garden, a short distance from where a car bomb exploded almost a quarter of a century ago, killing 31 people, including unborn twins.

The service was organised jointly by Omagh Churches' Forum, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, and family and support organisations in the local community. Among



the dignitaries who attended were the Northern Ireland Office minister Lord Caine and the former Police Ombudsman, Baroness O'Loan (who headed the Omagh Bomb Inquiry).

Clergy from the four main Christian denominations took part in the service, which was led by the joint chairmen of the Omagh Churches' Forum, the Church of Ireland's Rural Dean for Omagh, Rev Canon Robert Clarke, and Drumragh Parish Priest, Fr Eugene Hasson.

There was a touching passage during the Service when the Lord's Prayer was recited in three different languages — English, Irish and Spanish. A young Spanish woman, Rocio Abad Ramos, and her 12 year old compatriot, Fernando Blasco Baselga, were among those murdered in the explosion.



During the service, Canon Clarke (above left) paid tribute to the late Fr Kevin Mullan, who had been a great support to the bereaved at the time of the bombing and who had been a stalwart of the Churches' Forum. Fr Mullan died earlier this year.

The Omagh bombing led to the greatest loss of life in a single incident in the Northern Ireland 'Troubles'.

Another Service, this time a private one, will be held in Omagh Library today Tuesday 15th August — the actual date of the explosion — for families and others affected by the bombing.

In Buncrana, people will gather at Knockalla Park on this afternoon for public prayers to commemorate local children and young Spanish visitors who lost their lives in Omagh.



Irish Christian Endeavour Convention in Lisburn next month

Members of Irish Christian Endeavour are looking forward to the 108th Irish National Christian Endeavour Convention, which will be held on Saturday September 23, at 7.15pm, in Vic-Ryn's T3 Conference Centre in Lisburn.

The Revd Roland Watt (photo), minister of Killymurrisk Presbyterian Church, will speak on the theme, "Jesus is Lord of all".

Roland, who was brought up in Pomeroy, was educated at the Royal School Dungannon. After successfully completing studies at Stranmillis University College he did supply teaching for five years working in various schools including Cookstown High and Omagh Academy. His main subject was Religious Education with music.

He began studying for the ministry in 2010 in Union Theological College and had short placements in Cavanaleck and Aughentaine, Moy and Benburb, Sixmilecross and Clogherney Presbyterian Churches.

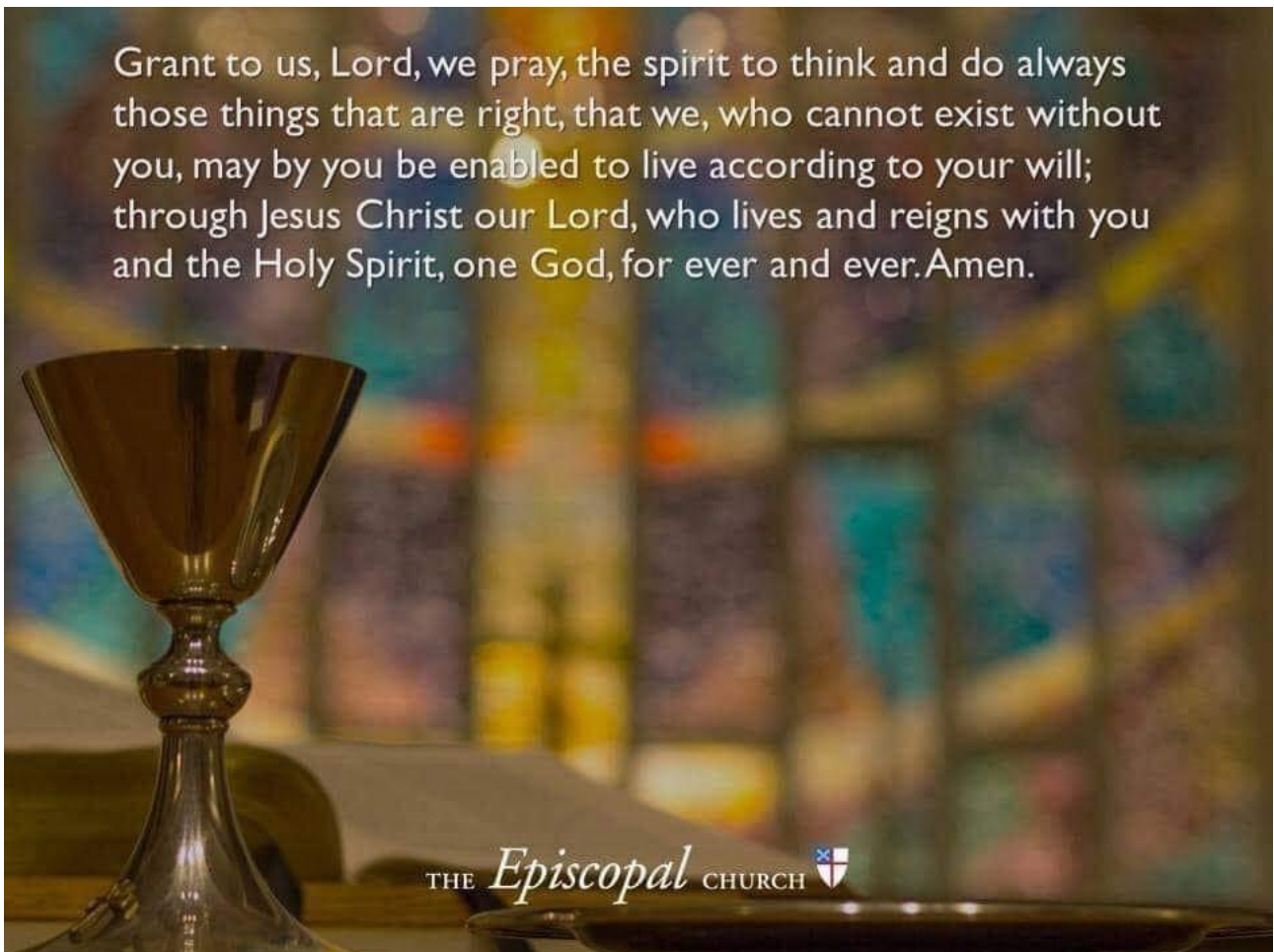
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Having asked for a country Church for his Assistantship Roland was sent to Immanuel Presbyterian Church in the Lower Shankill, where he had started his teaching practice ten years earlier.

It was in Immanuel on Agnes Street, Belfast that he witnessed the benefit and value of the work of Christian Endeavour. It was in Agnes Street Presbyterian that the first CE in Ireland began through the work of a Sunday School teacher, Margaret Magill.

It was in 2016 that he was called to Killymurriss Presbyterian Church, Glarryford where he now has the privilege and responsibility of proclaiming the truth of God's Word as he pastors the flock there.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 



150th anniversary service in Cork's Aughadown church

The Church of Saint Matthew, Aughadown celebrated the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the church by Bishop John Gregg on August 13 in 1873.

L-R: The O'Donovan (whose great-grandfather laid the foundation stone in October 1872), the Reverend Steve McCann (rector), William Casey (local historian), yours truly, Deirdre Pemberton (great-great-granddaughter of the builders who built the church), Padraig O'Donovan (organist who spoke about the organ), the Reverend Tom Kingston (Methodist Church whose family have lived nearby since the 18thC) and parishioner, Lucy Perrott. The O'Donovan

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brought with him the silver trowel which had been presented to his great-grandfather by the select vestry following the laying of the foundation stone.

New Dean of Killaloe

Bishop Michael Burrows has announced that the new Dean of Killaloe and Priest-in-Charge of the group parishes will be the Revd Canon Dr Richard Marsh, who is at present Bishop's Vicar at St Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny.

“I could say much of Dr Marsh whom I know very well from previous shared ministry in Ossory diocese, but this announcement must be confined to a few sentences. Richard was ordained in the Church of England in 1985 following a distinguished academic career. Parochial experience in Cheshire was followed by a period when he was on the personal staff of the Archbishop of Canterbury, concerned particularly with ecumenical and international affairs. He was also a canon of Canterbury cathedral.

“For personal and family reasons, Richard then had a period of reflection outside active ministry and became involved in wider community work. This coincided with a move to Ireland where he lived in Westport and Bishop Patrick Rooke invited him to resume ministry as an honorary assistant priest in the Mayo area. I myself was delighted over three years ago when he felt the time had come to re-enter full time ministry and in that context he moved to the cathedral and parish in Kilkenny. His work there has been much lauded, characterised by fruitfulness and flair.



“I am thrilled that Richard, with his wife Ro, will shortly move to the Deanery in Killaloe and I am thinking in terms of an afternoon installation on Sunday October 22. Richard will bring manifold gifts to parish and cathedral, and he also will play a leading role in areas such as Reader training and accredited adult learning across our diocese.”

Commenting on his appointment, Canon Marsh said ‘I’m delighted to be appointed Dean of St Flannan’s Cathedral and look forward both to getting to know the parishioners and working more widely with Bishop Michael and Diocesan colleagues especially to facilitate Reader and other accredited lay training and Clergy CME’

Invite to outdoor service at Knappagh Church, Tuam

Plans are underway for an outdoor service at the old Knappagh Church (St Thomas's), on Wednesday 23rd August, at 6pm.



“If you are interested in coming along and would like more information, please contact us at aughaval@tuam.anglican.org. We would love to hear from you!”



‘It has the extra bonus of helping the environment’ – Huge cut in church’s energy bills thanks to solar panels

A parish priest’s church electricity bill has dropped by almost €150 in just a month after he installed solar panels, Louise Walsh writes in the Irish Independent.

Fr Paul Byrne and the parish finance committee in Termonfeckin, Co Louth, decided to install ground solar panels to heat both the Church of the Immaculate Conception and its neighbouring parochial house after their electricity bills rose more than 300pc.

The 20 panels were installed in the grounds of the parochial house last month and Fr Byrne has already noticed savings.

“This parish had been talking about solar panels for a long number of years but we really began looking into it when electricity prices just kept getting higher,” he said.

“It’s only since July last year that homeowners became eligible to sell their surplus solar electricity to the grid which made the concept more valid, considering the high initial cost outlay.

“Many grant schemes that we looked into were only for community halls or premises, which ruled us out as this parish has a limited amount of parochial properties and land.



Fr Paul Byrne of Termonfeckin, Co Louth said the new panels have already made a difference to parish bills

“Churches are listed as commercial buildings so the tariffs for energy are three times higher than residential properties which makes energy bills even more costly.”

The priest said the electricity bills were “going through the roof”, with a 300pc increase since last year after comparing bills.

“We looked at low-consumption lights in the church, but this was working out more costly than solar panels, so while we would have saved on the lighting, we would still have massive heating bills,” he said.

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“This time of year, we use very little electricity. We only need to turn on the heating about a half an hour before mass so we are already generating about one-eighth of our energy straight back to the grid, which we may get a few euro for.

“When we started investigating the process, we discovered that we didn’t need planning permission if we installed the panels on the ground and the meters are installed at the back of the house so there was very little need for ground excavations.

“We just read the meters, submit them to the electricity company and we are already in surplus.

“As I said, we use little electricity in the summer months but still our bill this year for July using solar energy was €100.

In July 2022, it was €243 so that’s already a big saving.”

He added: “The solar panels cost the standard €8,000 and there was a €2,500 grant available for the parochial house as a residential building. There were no grants available for the church.

“It is a lot for an initial cost outlay but when you see the bills rising constantly each month, even in summer, when we use very little heating and lighting, it was necessary cost which we are already seeing a return on and it has the extra bonus of helping the environment.” Courtesy the Irish Independent.

In the media



Rock star Mick Fleetwood on the ‘complete devastation’ of Maui wildfires

Irish Examiner - Fleetwood Mac star Mick Fleetwood has described the “catastrophic” effect of wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui, where he lives.

The 76-year-old said the natural disaster, which has killed dozens of people, has left “complete devastation” in the town of Lahaina as well as destroying his restaurant Fleetwood’s On Front Street.

Fleetwood, who was in LA visiting family when the fires broke out, immediately chartered a plane and flew back to Hawaii bringing with him relief supplies.

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He told Sky News: “These hills were ablaze and I wasn’t there.

“Selfishly I haven’t lost a family member, I didn’t lose my house. It could have happened, but it didn’t happen.

“But you immediately go ‘I’m really lucky now what the hell can I do?’”

He continued: “Over those mountains is complete devastation....The whole town of Lahaina is no more.”

The veteran drummer, of British-American rock band Fleetwood Mac which formed in 1967 and are known for songs such as Everywhere and Go Your Own Way, addressed the possibility that the town could be taken over by property developers.

“The thought of it becoming some sort of playground with no reference to the dignity of that town, to me, would be abhorrent,” he said.

PSNI data breach slipped past FIVE key checks

Belfast Telegraph - What really happened: The PSNI's vast data breach wasn't "human error" by someone junior, as initially suggested. It went through five PSNI processes in four departments. Now there's a crisis within a crisis - many Catholic officers are preparing to quit.

The investigation now under way has access to high quality forensic IT data - this was caught almost immediately, so there's a lot of evidence. The number of processes the data went through makes it hard to believe this could have been deliberate, as some people had feared.



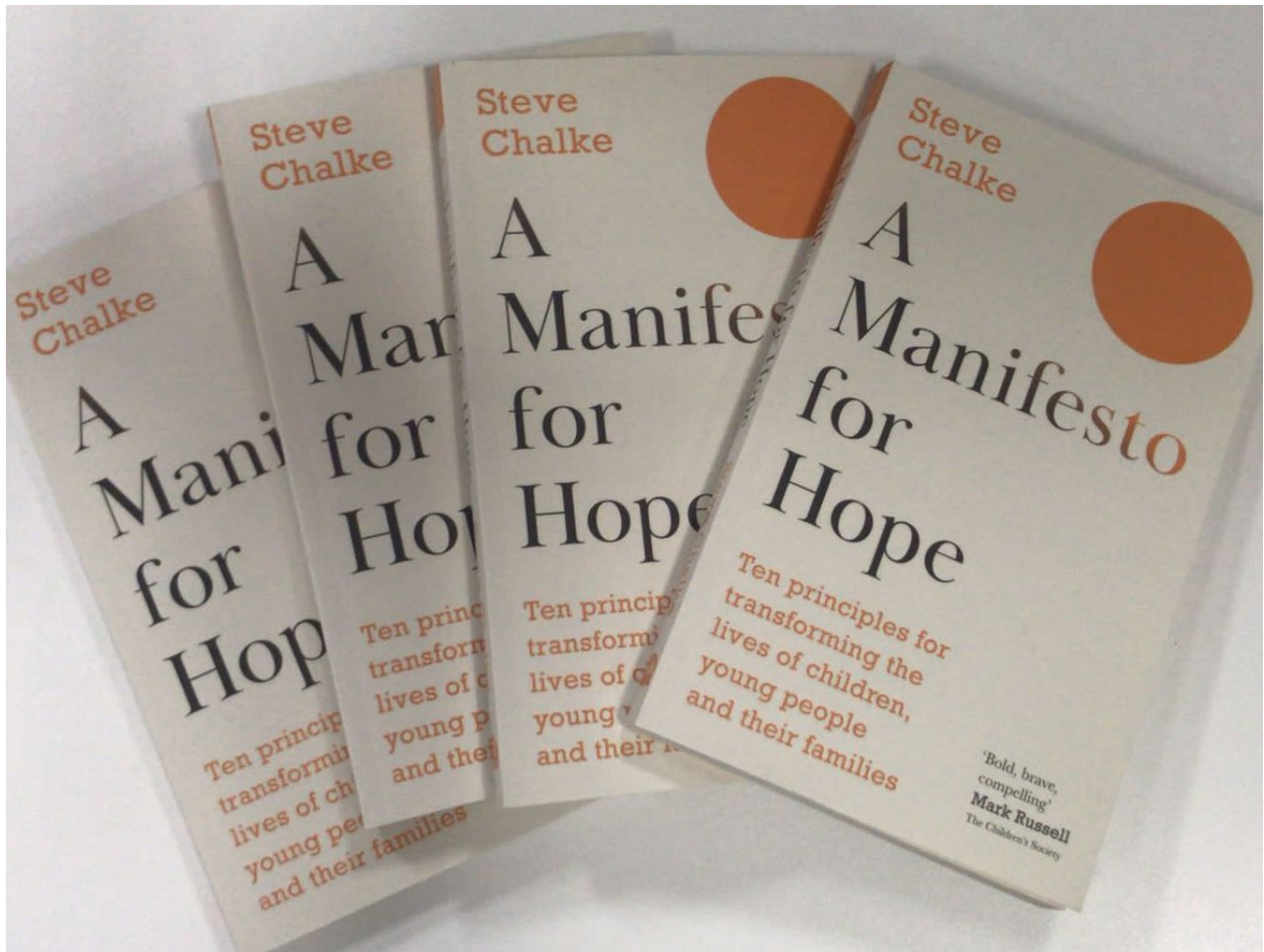
This also immediately reminded me of something from the RHI scandal: Civil servants who cleared the RHI legislation believed there were so many processes where so many others had approved it, that it must be OK. Sometimes a host of organisational processes increases complacency.

Subscription at -

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/sam-mcbride/psni-data-breach-slipped-past-five-key-checks/a1641975130.html>

**Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts,
and books**

A Manifesto for Hope

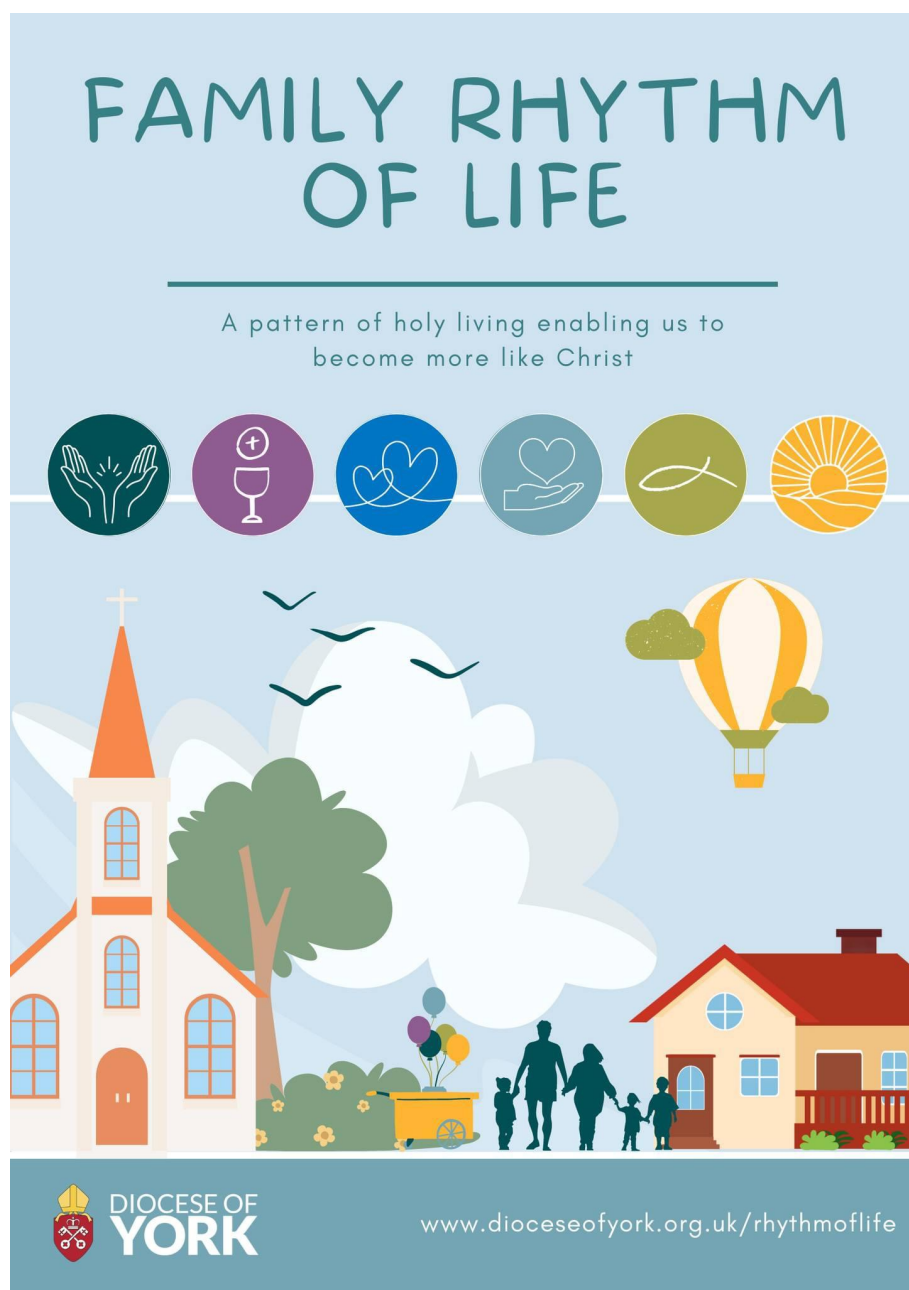


Steve Chalke writes “Our welfare systems are broken. Business as usual will not do. More money, on its own, won’t work. We need a revolution to transform the lives of the children and families we are failing - one that involves us all. My new book, A Manifesto for Hope, is out next month”.

Mark Russell affirms - Steve Chalke has given his life to changing children’s lives.

I’ve had the privilege to read this book and am honoured to have my commendation on the cover.

We don’t need reform we need a revolution to transform children’s lives. This is a bold, brave, compelling book!



Something for the school holidays

Diocese of York’s latest resource in the Rhythm of Life created for families. The Diocesan Rhythm of Life is a framework for holy living, shaped around six things that Jesus asks us to do.

Find out more here 

<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/news-events/news/ready-for-the-holidays-try-our-new-rhythm-of-life-for-families/>

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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
