

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Portrush RNLI 18.24 on 1.8.24**

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## Image of the day

### Portrush RNLI 18.24 on 1.8.24

**In celebration of 200 years of the RNLI, volunteers from Portrush RNLI all came together this Thursday evening for a special photo. The photo included Crew, Operations, Fundraising Team, Shop volunteers, and Lifeguards.**

The crew then organised a beach BBQ for everyone on the beach afterwards to include families and the RNLI 200 Team...



🧡💙 A key part of our crew is our families. They are the people who stay behind when we go out on a shout and pick up the slack, allowing us to go off at a moment's notice to save lives at sea. Thursday night was an opportunity for us to thank them for their unwavering support. It was truly #OneCrew. 💙🧡

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...This special event of 'One Moment One Crew' is being held to connect all RNLI volunteers across the Ireland and the UK at this appropriate moment.

The photographs are going to be turned into one unique mural made up of all of the imagery of the one crew of 2024. This will be available in digital form, as well as a physical print.

The image will also be preserved in the RNLI Heritage archive for the future generations of the charity to enjoy.

 Lauren Chambers LIT Photography NI

## News

### And just like that, we're back in Jerusalem!

**Canon Don Binder has written - “Thanks everyone for your prayers yesterday.**

“Ours was one of the very last flights into Tel Aviv, as nearly every foreign carrier has now stopped flying here. That's because of the reprisal attacks expected in the next few days in response to the high-level assassinations carried out by Israel in Beirut and Tehran this past week.

“Given the increased chances for this erupting into a larger, regional war, please continue to pray for a deescalation of these revenge attacks, and a speedy, negotiated end to this ten-month-long war.



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Only in this way do we have any hope for relief for the suffering, freedom for the captives, return of the displaced, and a renewed international commitment



to a long-term solution for a just and lasting peace here in the Holy Land”.

Canon Binder is from the USA and serves at St George’s Cathedral Jerusalem. He was one of a number of clergy from the diocese who visited Dublin and Glendalough diocese earlier this year. In CNI yesterday his trip from Washington to Tel Aviv was featured.

## **New CEO for Bible Society in Northern Ireland**

**The Board of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland has announced the appointment of Wilson Beare to be their new Chief Executive Officer.**

Wilson currently serves as National Director of Urban Saints in Ireland and is involved in a number of other ministries. He

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will join us in the early autumn to take our ministry of "Reaching Everyone with God's Word" forward.

The Board asks that you pray for the Bible Society, the Board, the staff team, and for Wilson as he prepares to join us. Pray also for Urban Saints as they seek how God would lead them about future leadership.



## Exodus ministry team in Budapest

Matthew Kane from St Nicholas, Carrickfergus is serving with the Exodus ministry team in Budapest. He is part of a team of 9 young people running holiday bible clubs, seeking to spread the good news







Scottish Country Dance  
for Families and  
Young People

Sundays 11th and 18th August  
2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.



St Mark's Dundela  
Heyn Hall  
2 Sydenham Avenue  
Belfast BT4 2DR

£3 per person or £10 per family (ages 4 and up)  
Wear comfortable clothes and flat shoes  
Light refreshments will be provided

*Photo courtesy of Jon Davey*

of the Gospel. Please hold them in your prayers.

## Parish Olympic congratulations

**St Finnian's Parish Church, Belfast, has congratulated Jack McMillan on his Gold Medal win in the 4x200M freestyle swimming race in Paris. "He and the team were phenomenal".**

"His late parents were parishioners of St Finnian's and his win has brought great joy to the parish as we all gathered around our TV sets to cheer him on.

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“Jack is an Old Boy of the 74th BB and his modesty and commitment to his team make him a great role model for all aspiring athletes”.

## **Bishop Monahan: Everyone has a responsibility to protect life on our roads**

**149 people have died on roads on the island of Ireland to date in 2024**

On Saturday of the long weekend Bishop Fintan Monahan will lead a ‘Blessing of the Roads’ prayer ceremony at the Cathedral in Ennis

As we look forward to enjoying this August long weekend in the Republic, Bishop Fintan Monahan has “begged” all road users to take extra care over these three days.

Bishop Monahan said, “Last weekend there were five road deaths across Ireland. Up to this morning across the island of Ireland, there have been 113 road fatalities in the South, and 36 in the North. We must be conscious that each of us has a responsibility when we get behind the wheel to ensure we are not putting our lives or the lives of others at risk. So I beg of you all to make every effort to avert these tragedies. Slow down, put away all distractions, wear necessary safety equipment and keep clear headed and alert when driving, walking and cycling on our roads. Everyone shares a responsibility to protect human life.

“This loss of life on our roads is a tragedy for society and particularly devastating for the families and loved ones of

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the deceased. I invite parishes across the diocese to pray for those who have lost their lives and have been injured so far this year. Let us also remember clergy, first responders and the Gardaí who attend the scene at road collisions.”

This Saturday, following the celebration of 6.30pm Mass in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Ennis, Bishop Monahan will lead a ‘Blessing of the Roads’ ceremony to pray for the protection of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Bishop Monahan recommends two prayers to help people change their driving behaviour, and to stay safe on roads across the island:

17th century paidir as Gaeilge  
In ainm an Athar le bua,  
In ainm an Mhic a d’fhulaing an phian,  
In ainm an Spiorad Naoimh le neart,  
Muire is a Mac linn inár dtriall. Áiméan!

A contemporary prayer in the English language  
Holy Mother, hear our prayer,  
Keep us in your loving care,  
Whatever the perils of the way,  
Let us not add to them this day.  
So to our caution and attention,  
We add a prayer for your protection,  
To beg God’s blessing on this car,  
To travel safely near and far.  
Amen.





## Cathedral Calls

**Holy Trinity Church, Southport to sing at Ripon Cathedral tomorrow**

**Music is central to the worshipping life of Holy Trinity. From the earliest days of the parish in 1837, there was a**

**choir singing for services.**

Today, Holy Trinity (photo above) is home to a very strong musical tradition, and the choir sings at two services during the week: Sung Eucharist at 10am on Sunday, and Choral Evensong at 7pm on Wednesday in term time.

You can hear them this week singing Evensong at Ripon Cathedral.

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We keep in our thoughts and prayers all the people of Southport in light of recent tragic events.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Discovering Quakers

**Heard of Quakers, but not really sure who it's for or what it's all about?**

Our weekly Quaker Lives session is here to answer your questions and give you a flavour of the way Quakers sit in silence together.



**Got any questions about Quakers?**

**Come to one of our weekly Quaker Lives sessions**

Guest speaker, Q&A  
and Quaker Meeting taster

Tuesdays 7pm  
on Zoom

At each session, which is held on Zoom, you will;

Learn a little about the background of Quakers and why we sit in silence

Hear from a guest speaker about how being a Quaker has enriched their life

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Have an opportunity to ask questions, and

Try Quaker silence with a short 'Meeting for Worship'

The sessions are every Tuesday evening at 7pm and last for an hour. To register, visit [info.discoveringquakers.org.uk/quaker-lives/](https://info.discoveringquakers.org.uk/quaker-lives/)

## Lambeth Call on Science and Faith invite

**“The Anglican Communion Science Commission is important because it helps us to unravel ways in which faith and science can work together and how science can help interpret difficult issues.” - Professor Esther Mombo**

In August 2023, Anglican bishops, scientists, and theological educators gathered in Kenya for a workshop to explore 'Science and Faith for Enriching Human Life.'

The goal was to discuss how faith and science communities can collaborate to understand the world and address global needs.

To discover more about the Science Commission visit: [bit.ly/3YeQ6PQ](https://bit.ly/3YeQ6PQ)

To find out how you can get involved with the Lambeth Call on 'Science and Faith' visit: [bit.ly/3Wa2Sxs](https://bit.ly/3Wa2Sxs)



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## **2024 applications round now open for Priorities Fund**

**The Church of Ireland Priorities Fund is now open for applications.**

Contributions to the fund come directly from Church of Ireland parishes and since its establishment in 1980 over €21 million (£19 million) has been distributed in grants.

The following categories are currently supported by the fund:

Training – lay and ordained

Christian education

Outreach initiatives

Innovative ministry in a rural context

The closing date for the receipt of completed applications is Thursday, 31st October 2024.

Applications can be made through an online form or a downloadable PDF form which can then be forwarded to the Administrator – both are available at <https://priorities.ireland.anglican.org/applications>

For further information, please contact Gordon Woods,

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Administrator of the Priorities Fund (on behalf of the Representative Church Body's Finance Department) at Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF47

Email: [priorities@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:priorities@ireland.anglican.org)

Tel: 00 353 (1) 4125 636

## Heritage

### Lost Building: Trench House, Belfast, 1950



A nice rendering of Trench House, a former teacher training college on Stewartstown Road in the Andersonstown area of West Belfast, in 1950.

**Designed by the local architect Alexander Macalister (1821-1897), this elegant Victorian mansion was built in the 1880s for Arthur Hamill, a leading property owner in Belfast.**

The last surviving member of the Hamill family, Teresa, died in September 1918, and Trench House was subsequently bequeathed to the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters leased the house to the Bishop of Down and Connor who used it as a residence until 1938. Afterwards, the building laid largely vacant until it was repurposed into a Catholic teacher training centre (St Joseph's College) in 1947.

A major extension to Trench House was undertaken in the late 1960s with the addition of a chapel, a tuition block, and a residential wing. In 1985 St. Joseph's College was amalgamated with another Catholic teacher training institution, St. Mary's College, to form the present-day St. Mary's University College, Belfast.

Trench House was closed in June 1996 when the entire college relocated to a newly extended Falls Road campus in Belfast. Rather sadly (and despite its listed status) Trench House was later demolished.

The illustration is taken from a card in our collection written by Canon Patrick Rogers, an ecclesiastical historian and educationalist who spent much of his life in ministry as principal of St Joseph's College - courtesy Capuchin archives



## In the media

### **Belfast Telegraph - Bishop apologises to victim of paedophile priest James Donaghy for failures of church after he reported 'violent acts of depravity'**

**The Bishop of Down and Connor has apologised on behalf of the diocese for its “misjudged and unfair” handling of a vulnerable young cleric who was abused by predator priest James Donaghy, Brett Campbell writes August 1 2024**

It comes almost six months after the diocese received the final report of a review led by Dr Tony McGleenan KC into how the late Bishop Walsh dealt with a complaints by Fr Paddy McCafferty.

Bishop Alan McGuckian said the protection of children and vulnerable adults “must always be a priority” for the church as he acknowledged its focus on child sex abuse “eclipsed” the cleric's report of being abused by the paedophile priest.

“Fr McCafferty came forward out of concern for others who could be at risk,” he said.

"He showed courage and leadership in the face of incredulity, disbelief and animosity on the part of many, including clergy of the diocese.

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“At the time of the abuse Fr McCafferty was a vulnerable young adult.

"It is clear now that the report of his abuse was eclipsed by the diocese's focus on child sexual abuse. This should not have occurred.

"What Fr McCafferty reported in extensive written detail, in 2003, was clearly criminal.”

The Bishop said that in contemporary church law “the sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult victim is of no less magnitude than the abuse of a minor” which “was not recognised at that time in the case of a dominant adult abuser and a vulnerable young victim”.

The senior cleric also referred to a newspaper article published in 2012 after Donaghy had been convicted that printed assertions by the diocese that there was an “equal standing between an adult abuser and a vulnerable adult” and described the stance taken as “misjudged and unfair to Fr McCafferty who was not believed and supported by the diocese when he should have been”.

“On behalf of the diocese, I apologise to Fr McCafferty most sincerely and I readily acknowledge the toll all of this has taken on him over the years since his initial reporting in 2001,” Bishop McGuckian continued.

“An earlier statement made by the diocese in 2006, following the decision of the PPS ‘not to prosecute’ James Donaghy, supported the then alleged perpetrator at the expense of his victims.

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"In the light of his subsequent conviction as an abuser, the statement was ill-judged.

"The 2006 diocesan statement also clearly compounded the hurt and pain for all the victims."

Bishop McGuckian said that even when Donaghy was finally convicted there was "a lack of demonstrable regret in the apology from the diocese for the wrongs done to his victims".

"I want to take this opportunity now to apologise sincerely to all the victims in that case and all cases," he added.

"Courageous victims have led the way in uncovering abuse.

"Fr Paddy's speaking out has encouraged others to come forward. I welcome this and in turn I encourage anyone who has suffered abuse to come forward. We, as a diocese, will ensure that our response is victim-centred, professional and just.

"The Diocese encourages anyone who has concerns, suspicions or allegations of abuse to come forward and to report that abuse to the statutory authorities or to the appropriate safeguarding representatives."

Donaghy was dismissed from the priesthood by Pope Francis in 2015 "for the good of the church" while serving a 10-year-old jail sentence for abusing three victims following a trial in 2011.



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The paedophile, who had already stepped down in 2004, was convicted again of indecently assaulting a boy and in 2013 was given two more years in jail to run concurrently.

Fr McCafferty helped jail the pervert and has published a book about the silence of shame after suffering years of rapes and violent sexual assaults at the hands of Donaghy when he was a young student training for the priesthood.

On Thursday he accepted the apology as "an important step towards further healing and recovery" on what has "a very long and painful road".

"When I was being raped and abused as a young adult, by the then Fr Jim Donaghy, the way I coped was to dissociate and pretend it wasn't happening," said.

"I didn't "feel" anything even though I was being physically subjected to violent acts of depravity.

"I left my body and became an onlooker to what he was doing to me.

"For decades, I have suffered, since the abuse stopped, with Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"Two and a half years ago, the enormity of what Donaghy inflicted hit me like a ton of bricks.

"This is because I was now strong enough to face the horror of what I suffered.

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"I welcome today's apology from Bishop Alan on behalf of the diocese of Down and Connor."

## Poem for today

### August

By Algernon Charles Swinburne

There were four apples on the bough,  
Half gold half red, that one might know  
The blood was ripe inside the core;  
The colour of the leaves was more  
Like stems of yellow corn that grow  
Through all the gold June meadow's floor.

The warm smell of the fruit was good  
To feed on, and the split green wood,  
With all its bearded lips and stains  
Of mosses in the cloven veins,  
Most pleasant, if one lay or stood  
In sunshine or in happy rains.

There were four apples on the tree,  
Red stained through gold, that all might see  
The sun went warm from core to rind;  
The green leaves made the summer blind  
In that soft place they kept for me  
With golden apples shut behind.

The leaves caught gold across the sun,  
And where the bluest air begun,

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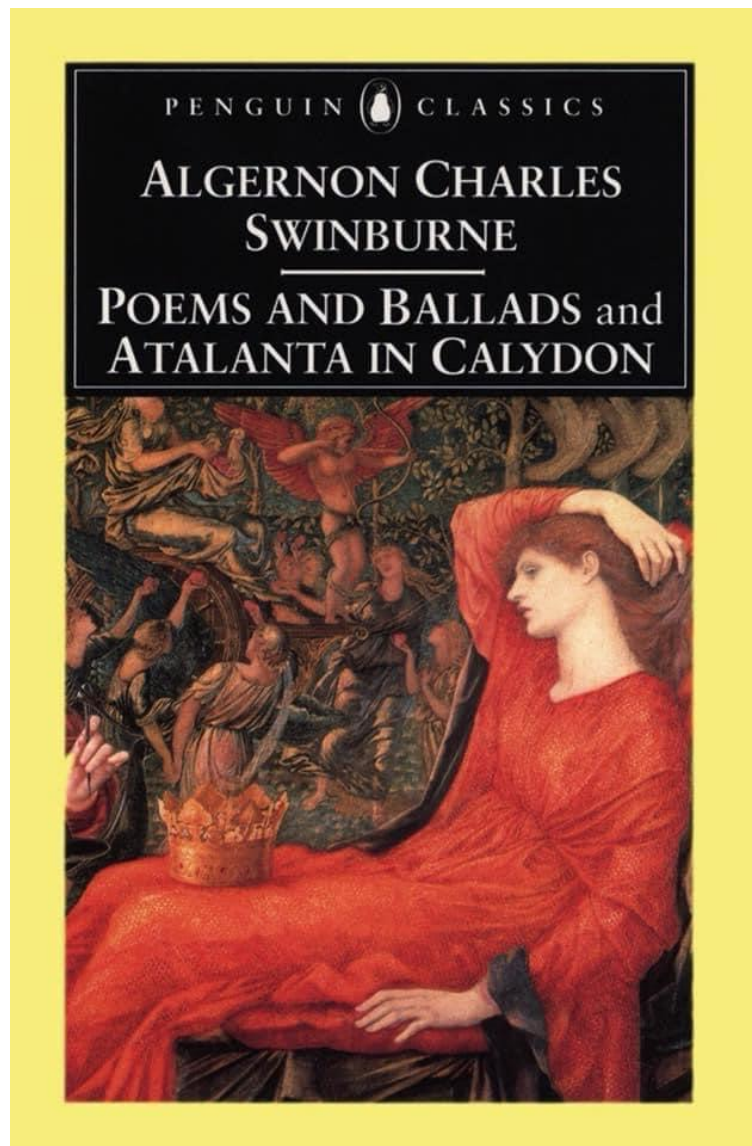
Thirsted for song to  
help the heat;  
As I to feel my lady's  
feet

Draw close before the  
day were done;  
Both lips grew dry with  
dreams of it.

In the mute August  
afternoon  
They trembled to some  
undertune  
Of music in the silver  
air;  
Great pleasure was it to  
be there  
Till green turned  
duskier and the moon  
Coloured the corn-  
sheaves like gold hair.

That August time it was delight  
To watch the red moons wane to white  
'Twixt grey seamed stems of apple-trees;  
A sense of heavy harmonies  
Grew on the growth of patient night,  
More sweet than shapen music is.

But some three hours before the moon  
The air, still eager from the noon,  
Flagged after heat, not wholly dead;  
Against the stem I leant my head;





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The colour soothed me like a tune,  
Green leaves all round the gold and red.

I lay there till the warm smell grew  
More sharp, when flecks of yellow dew  
Between the round ripe leaves had blurred  
The rind with stain and wet; I heard  
A wind that blew and breathed and blew,  
Too weak to alter its one word.

The wet leaves next the gentle fruit  
Felt smoother, and the brown tree-root  
Felt the mould warmer: I too felt  
(As water feels the slow gold melt  
Right through it when the day burns mute)  
The peace of time wherein love dwelt.

There were four apples on the tree,  
Gold stained on red that all might see  
The sweet blood filled them to the core:  
The colour of her hair is more  
Like stems of fair faint gold, that be  
Mown from the harvest's middle floor.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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