

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – From Belfast to Bath**

August 5, 2024

## Image of the day

### From Belfast to Bath

**The Priory Singers conducted by Philip Bolton MBE sang this past weekend's services in wonderful Bath Abbey.**

Their repertoire included music by Vierne, Noble, Stanford, Vaughan Williams, and more. Jack Wilson of Belfast Cathedral accompanied on the organ.

## News

### Three-day Lower Falls School Uniform Project

**YWAM (Youth with a mission) Belfast - Just finished the three-day Lower Falls School Uniform Project in partnership with ROC Northern Ireland at St John's Parish Falls Road.**

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who made this year so much easier including our regulars who come every year as well as helpers from Danske Bank UK and Orchardville, all of whom generously gave their time to make this year happen.

Over 120 kids received free school uniform items and we are so blessed to see believers and members of the



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community coming together to show support for their neighbours.

Please keep ROC NI in your prayers as they have done several of these events so far and still have a few more to go before summer is out.

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## Mossley visit to RUC GC Memorial Garden

Ladies from the Women's Guild of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mossley, had a poignant visit to the RUC GC Memorial Garden at Knock and... believe it or not, they got round dry!





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A reminder at the RUC GC Memorial Garden at Knock of the memorial window at Belfast Cathedral.

**Veteran-led, peer support programme for veterans...**







# ROAD MAP TO RECOVERY

## Peer support for veterans, their families/carers across Northern Ireland


 **Family Support**  
Monday evenings: 6.30pm  
Larne


 **Veteran and Addiction Support**  
Monday evenings: 6.30pm  
Belfast

 **Veteran Mental Health Support**  
Tuesday evenings: 6.30pm  
Larne

 **Veteran Mental Health Support**  
Tuesday evenings: 6.30pm  
Newtownards

 **Veteran LGBT+ Support**  
Wednesday evenings: 6.00pm  
Belfast

 **Veteran Mental Health Support**  
Thursday afternoons: 1:30pm  
Brookehouse - Colebrook Estate

 **Specialist Veteran Group**  
Thursday evenings: 6.00pm  
Ballymoney



 **THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST**  
Funded by HM Government

If you or someone you know needs support, contact the team.  
Call: 074 2207 4363 or email: [m.donaldson@inspirewellbeing.org](mailto:m.donaldson@inspirewellbeing.org)

**Road MAP to Recovery is a veteran-led, peer support**

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**programme for veterans as well as their families and carers across Northern Ireland.**

“We offer veterans the opportunity to regularly come together in a safe, peer-supportive environment to find better ways of coping with issues around relationships, feelings of anger, loneliness, addiction and trauma.

“We have a number of groups across Northern Ireland. So, if you or someone you know needs support, please contact Michael”.

You can call: 074 2207 4363 or email: [m.donaldson@inspirewellbeing.org](mailto:m.donaldson@inspirewellbeing.org)

## **Belfast City centre rector’s foresight and foreboding on Belfast protests**

**The Reverend Brian Stewart of St George’s church in Belfast city centre wrote on Friday last -**







Today, Friday 2nd August, I have been made aware that some far Right groups have called for protests in Belfast at City Hall and at the Belfast Islamic Centre.

These groups are trying to use the recent horrific knife attack in Southport as an excuse to stir up hatred against immigrants and refugees. This has already led to the violent scenes of destruction and mayhem that we have seen in Southport, Hartlepool, Sunderland and other English towns.

We in Northern Ireland know only too well what can happen when sectarianism and bigotry gain a foothold in our society. The individuals organising the Belfast 'protest' have called for Christians to join them. This is a cynical ploy by these faceless individuals who, I believe, have little or no knowledge of the Gospel of Christ or his message of peace. No sincere practising Christian could or should have anything to do with these groups or the gatherings they organise.



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We, in St George's, have a long and proud record of welcoming those who have come to NI and made their home in Belfast. Many of them have come to worship with us in St George's and are much loved members of our Parish. Whether immigrants, refugees and others who've come to live in Belfast are Christians, Muslims, Hindus or another tradition our duty, as Christians and members of the Church of Ireland, is to welcome and befriend them and oppose resolutely those extremists on the Right and the Left who want to stir up Islamophobia, antisemitism and any form of hatred based on religion, colour, ethnicity or other human distinction.

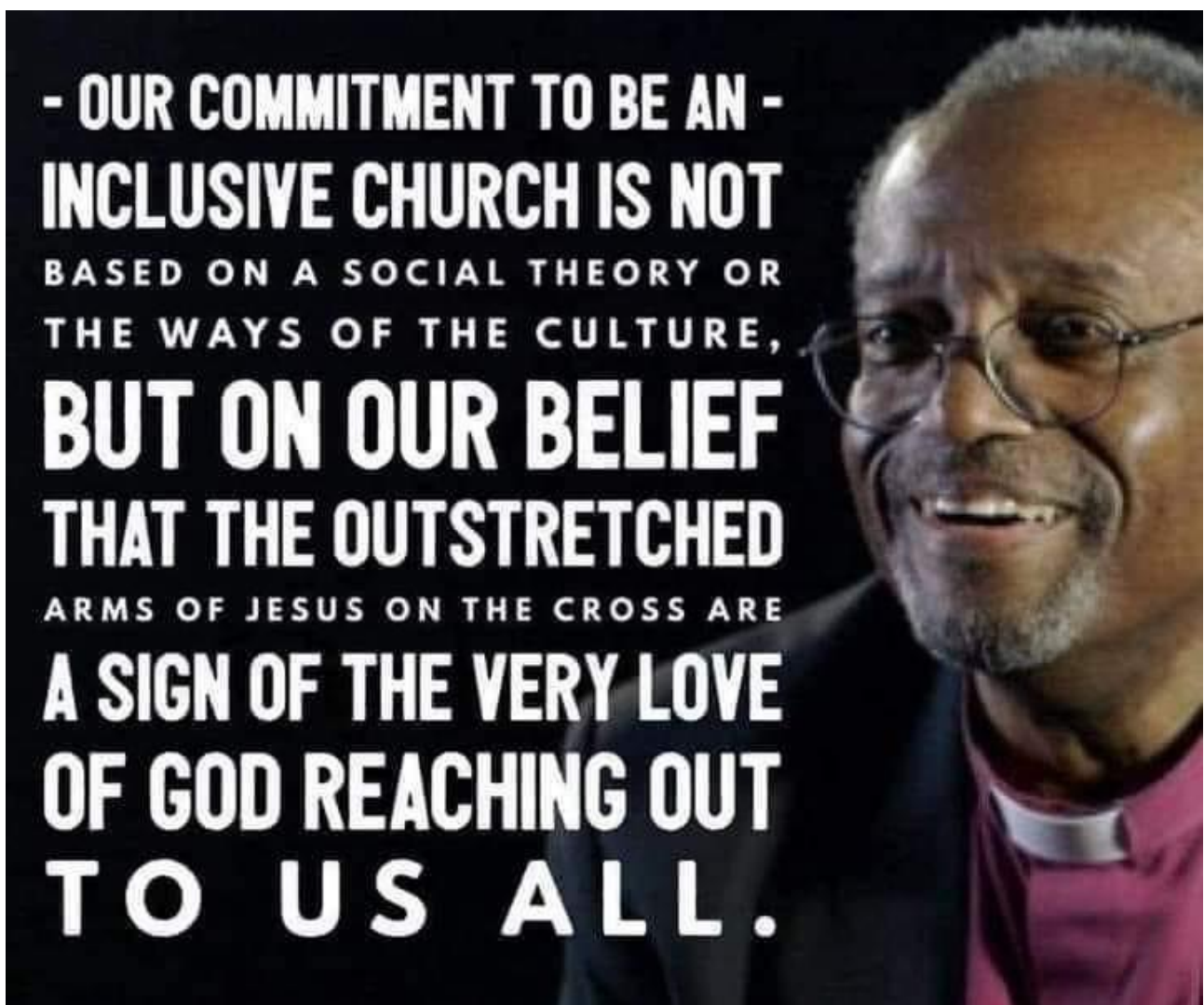


**Police form a cordon near the Belfast Islamic Centre Bishop George Davison and Bishop David McClay, the Church of Ireland bishops with dioceses covering Belfast, issued the following statement regarding disorder at protests against immigration, which took place in the city on Saturday, 3rd August 2024.**

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“Words and actions that lead to violence on our streets, the damage of property, and putting the safety of people at risk cannot be condoned but must be condemned by all of us.

“In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus Christ taught that our neighbour is the person whom we meet, whatever their background, race or belief. It is imperative on the Church then, in every local context, to find ways to welcome the stranger, to care for the refugee, and to extend God’s love, kindness, grace and care to every person that we meet. In reaching towards others with welcome and blessing in every way we can, we demonstrate faithfulness to the call of Jesus and a better way to live.





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“We have made strides forward in Northern Ireland in terms of reconciliation and the pursuit of all that makes for peace.

“This is a time for all of us to work together, pursuing acts of welcome and kindness which are always stronger and more powerful than anything that flows from fear and prejudice.”

The Rt Revd George Davison is the Bishop of Connor and the Rt Revd David McClay is the Bishop of Down and Dromore.

## **Archbishop of Canterbury commends The Advisory Opinion by International Court of Justice on Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories**

**The Most Rev. and Rt. Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury said on August 2, 2024 -**

The Advisory Opinion by the International Court of Justice (19 July 2024) makes definitively clear that Israel’s presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is unlawful and needs to end as rapidly as possible.

At a time when the world is marked by increasing violations of international law – and commitment to a rules-based system is in question – it is imperative that governments around the world reaffirm their unwavering commitment to all decisions by the International Court of Justice, irrespective of the situation. International law protects our

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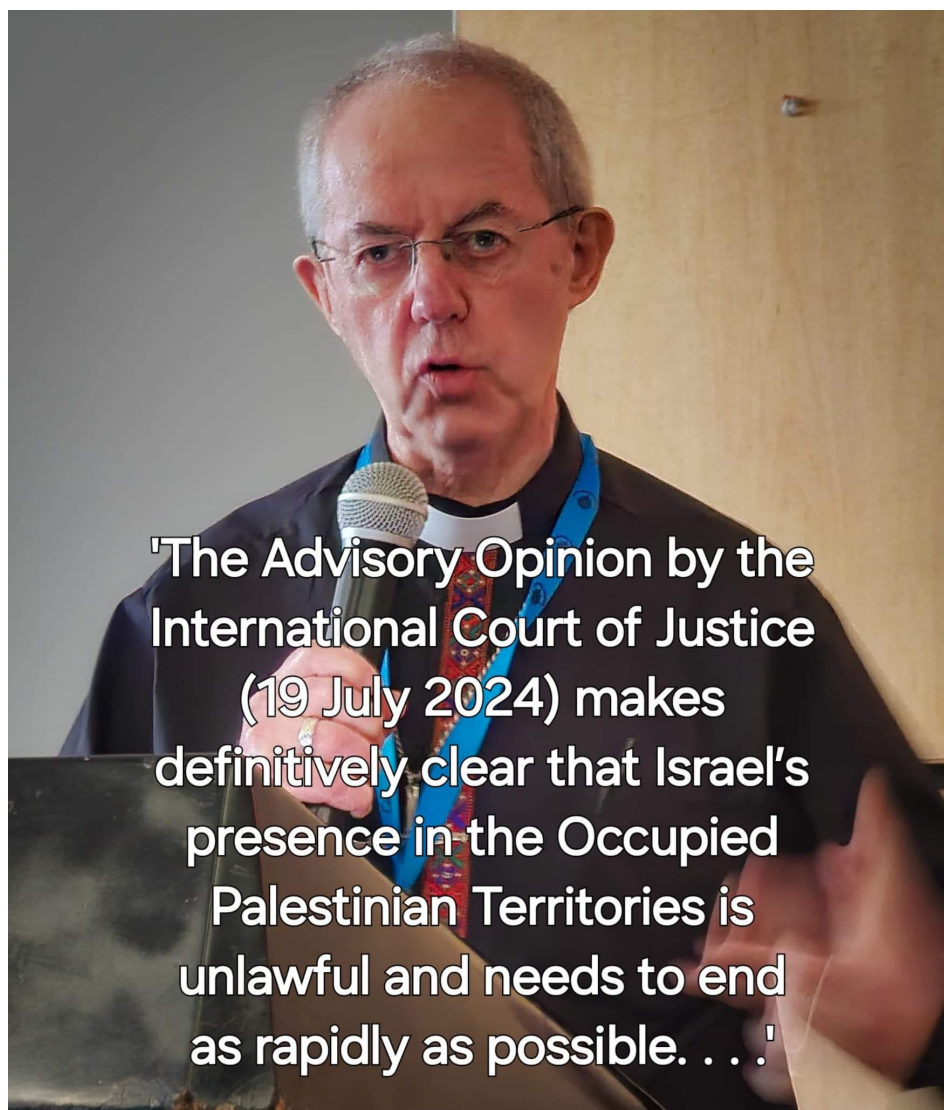
shared  
humanity, and  
safeguards  
human dignity  
and  
flourishing.

To resist a  
world where  
actions such  
as torture,  
hostage-  
taking and  
indiscriminate  
violence  
become the  
norm, we  
must apply  
the law

without fear or

favour in all circumstances. But for too long it has been  
applied and upheld in a selective manner that threatens our  
common peace and security. Now is the time to reverse that  
deeply damaging trend.

Having visited our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters  
many times over recent decades, it is clear to me that the  
regime imposed by successive Israeli governments in the  
Occupied Palestinian Territories is one of systemic  
discrimination. Through annexing Palestinian land for illegal  
settlements, depriving Palestinians access to their own  
natural resources, and imposing a system of military rule  
that denies them safety and justice, the State of Israel has





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been denying the Palestinian people dignity, freedom and hope.

I am particularly aware of how this is impacting Palestinian Christians, threatening their future and viability. It is clear that ending the occupation is a legal and moral necessity.

I pray that all UN member states respond positively to this Advisory Opinion by ensuring their individual and common actions are consistent with it – and pave the way for the realisation of the Palestinian people’s fundamental right to self-determination.

See also Media in CNI today, page 19 - NYTimes - Many of Gaza’s Medical Workers Have Been Detained or Killed

## Cathedral Calls

### St Canice's Cathedral fascinating roof

**The roof of St Canice's Cathedral has suffered greatly over the centuries.**

During the witch trial of Alice Kyteler, her son William Outlaw was punished by Bishop Ledrede instead of his mother. He had to repair the roof of the Cathedral, yet less than ten years later it collapsed in again. He had used too much lead.

Oliver Cromwell arrived in Kilkenny in 1650 and left the cathedral roofless for twelve years.



The current roof was built in 1863, made from Canadian Red Wood there were no nuts or bolts used. There are carvings that can be seen on the end of the beams, can you make out any of them?

Visit to learn more of the Cathedral's fascinating history-  
<https://www.stcanicescathedral.ie/visit>

## **New organist at St Paul's Cathedral**

**James Orford has been appointed organist at St Paul's Cathedral. London.**

James joins the cathedral from St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, where he is currently Organist & Asst Director of Music.

He takes up his role at St Paul's in September. For more on James, see -

[<https://www.jamesorford.com/>]



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# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

OPEN

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

## Musical Instruments Programme

The three schemes include:

- Musical Instruments for Individuals
- Musical Instruments for Bands
- Musical Instruments for professional and non-professional performing groups

## Funding for musicians

**Applications are NOW OPEN for the Arts Council Musical Instruments Programme!**

Details below 

### Musical Instruments for Individuals

<https://artscouncil-ni.org/funding-for-individuals/musical-instruments-for-individuals>

### Musical Instruments for Bands

<https://artscouncil-ni.org/funding-for-organisations/musical-instruments-for-bands>

➔ **Musical Instruments for professional and non-professional performing groups**

<https://artscouncil-ni.org/funding-for-organisations/musical-instruments-for-professional-and-non-professional-performing-groups>

Guidance notes and application forms for each scheme is available from the links above and on our website [artscouncil-ni.org/funding](https://artscouncil-ni.org/funding)



**Ben McGonigle**  
will be performing an  
**Organ & Piano Recital**  
on Thursday 15th August  
at 12.30pm  
in St Patrick's Church,  
37 Church St, Coleraine  
BT52 1AR

## **Methodist Church Environmental Policy available now**

**The recent Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland approved a revised Environmental Policy which is to be implemented by every Church Council in the Connexion, and applied, as far as possible, by all Departments.**



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The Policy, together with its accompanying two documents - Implementation Checklist and Download - can now be found **HERE**.

[<http://irishmethodist.org/csr-archive>]

Ministers and Lay Pastors or Stewards are asked to save the documents and share with your Church Council or leadership team. The Implementation Checklist and Download can be used in whatever way works best in the local context.

Text may be added as needed to the sections highlighted in yellow, other text may not be edited.

If you need further advice or information, please contact the Environmental Policy Sub-Group of CSR at [environment@irishmethodist.org](mailto:environment@irishmethodist.org)

If you are outside Irish Methodism you may find this material helpful in your Environmental Responsibility elsewhere.

## **Derry's Lough Derg 2024 thank you**

**Thank you to all the pilgrims from across the Diocese who joined the Diocese of Derry Three Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th July 2024.**

You were a lively bunch that gave support to each other through the challenges of the pilgrimage. Here is some of the feedback when asked what was life-giving over the weekend:



- A sense of Peace and Tranquility;
- A sense of fulfilment;
- Getting away and gaining perspective;
- Confession;
- Meeting new people;
- Following footsteps to St Patrick and 1,000's of other pilgrims;
- Discovering our traditions, roots, heritage and faith;
- The beautiful prayer and singing;
- Pushed out of comfort zone;
- Peace and Serenity;
- Making an effort towards God.



## In the media

### **NY Times - Many of Gaza's Medical Workers Have Been Detained or Killed**

**Out of a prewar total of about 20,000 health workers, 500 have been killed in the war, according to the W.H.O., and more than 300 are in Israeli detention, Gaza's health ministry says.**

An excerpt:

Dr. Khaled El Serr last spoke to his family in mid-March, a week before Israeli troops raided the hospital in southern Gaza where he worked as a surgeon, writes Anjanar Sankar.

“No one has seen or heard of him ever again,” said his cousin, Osaid AlSerr, a surgical resident in the United States. “We do not even know whether he is dead or alive.”

Dr. El Serr was arrested by the Israeli military, according to Amnesty International, citing the accounts of co-workers and Palestinian detainees who have been released. But the military has refused to say whether it is holding him.

His story is not unique. More than 300 of Gaza's health workers are in Israeli detention, the enclave's health ministry says, while others have been detained for a time and then released. And according to the World Health Organization,

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500 have been killed in the war, out of a prewar total of about 20,000.

Based on estimates of the war's toll, that means medical workers have been killed and detained at higher rates than Gazans generally, a severe blow to a health care system whose facilities have been devastated by war, and a population weakened by hunger, lack of clean water and the rampant spread of diseases.

“That equates to an average of two health care workers killed every day, with one in every 40 health care workers, or 2.5 percent of Gaza's health care work force, now dead,” Medical Aid for Palestinians, a British charity, said in a statement.

Asked about the detentions, the Israeli military said in a written response that “it does not deliberately detain doctors” but that “suspects of terrorist activities are detained” and taken for detention and questioning in Israel. Those found not to have been involved in “terrorist activity” are released back to the Gaza Strip, the military said.

Some of the doctors who have been released have said they were tortured in Israeli jails, which the Israeli military has denied. Others have died in custody, according to rights groups.

The director of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, Dr. Mohammad Abu Salmiya, was taken into custody seven months ago, after Israeli forces first raided the hospital — the largest in Gaza — saying that Hamas fighters were



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using it for military purposes and had tunnels underneath it. No charges were brought against him.

Released on July 1, Dr. Abu Salmiya said at a news conference that he and others had been subjected to “extreme torture” His finger had been broken, he said, and he had been beaten over the head repeatedly. His release set off a round of finger-pointing among Israeli authorities over who had authorized his detention, but there was no additional clarity on the cause or conditions of his time being held.

One of the doctors who died in Israeli custody was Dr. Adnan al-Bursh, 50, the head of orthopedics at Al-Shifa Hospital. He died in April at Ofer Prison in the West Bank, prompting a wave of criticism from the United Nations and rights groups.

“Dr. Adnan’s case raises serious concerns that he died following torture at the hands of Israeli authorities — his death demands an independent international investigation,” Tlaleng Mofokeng, a U.N. special rapporteur on health care rights said in a U.N. news release. The statement said that the doctor had “reportedly been beaten in prison, with his body showing signs of torture,” but gave no other details.

Israel’s prison service confirmed his death but declined to say anything about how he died.

Dr. Iyad Rantisi, a 53-year-old gynecologist who worked at Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, also died in custody, in Shikma Prison on Nov. 11, six days after he was arrested, the Israeli news outlet Haaretz reported in June.

Israel's internal security service, the Shin Bet, which Haaretz reported ran the interrogation facility at Shikma, said Dr. Rantisi had been arrested on suspicion of being involved in holding Israeli hostages. "The circumstances leading to his death are being checked by the relevant authorities," the security agency said in a statement on June 19.

Since the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, many hospitals in Gaza have come under attack from the Israeli military, which has accused Hamas fighters of using them as bases. Hamas and Palestinian doctors have repeatedly denied that claim.

The U.N. Human Rights Office said it had gathered "credible information" that Israeli military raids on hospitals had often led "to mass detention and enforced disappearances, including of medical staff." The "systematic attacks on hospitals" and the killing, detention and enforced disappearance of health workers had a devastating impact on the people," the U.N. body said in a statement on June 25.

Only a dozen of Gaza's 36 hospitals are functioning at all, according to Gaza's health officials, with the others crippled in raids or rendered dysfunctional because of shortages of fuel and medical supplies. The detention of health care workers has further weakened Gaza's fragile health care system as it tries to treat thousands wounded in Israeli airstrikes. August 2, 2024

Read it all (No Paywall):

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[https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/02/world/middleeast/gaza-doctors-medical-workers-israel.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.00.oKw1.ltNyLQ6ByqYP](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/02/world/middleeast/gaza-doctors-medical-workers-israel.html?unlocked_article_code=1.00.oKw1.ltNyLQ6ByqYP)

## Poem for today



### By Faughan

**by Francis Ledwidge**

Written in 1916 in Derry

For hills and woods and streams unsung  
I pipe above a rippled cove  
And here the weaver autumn clung  
Between the hills a wind she wove  
From sounds the hills remember yet  
Of purple days and violet.

The hills stand up to trip the sky  
Sea-misted and along the tops  
Wing after wing goes summer by,



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And many a little roadway stops  
And starts, and struggles to the sea,  
Cutting them up in filigree.

Twixt wind and silence Faughan flows,  
In music broken over rocks,  
Like mingled bells the poet knows  
Ring in the fields of Eastern flocks.  
And here this song for you I find  
Between the silence and the wind.

## 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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[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

