

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Sam goes to church

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Sam goes to church



“What a blessing as the parish in Armagh welcomed Sam Maguire to Mass in the Cathedral such a blessed week for the community and a great sense of joy for everyone”.





Bishop Michael Router said, “It was great to welcome members of the Armagh Senior Football Team and management, the County Board, Ulster Council, and, of course, the Sam Maguire to St. Patrick's Cathedral this morning. A joyful celebration of thanksgiving”.

God of song and dance,
we give you thanks for the melody of love,
and the harmony of life that sustains the cosmos.
Help us to sing your praise today,
and make known our gratitude
for all that you have done,
through Jesus Christ, the Way of love.
Amen.



News

Church leaders respond to recent acts of racial violence and discrimination

@Archbishop of York - Deeply troubled and saddened by the continued senseless violence plaguing our streets, particularly across the north of England. This action has no place in our society. Grateful for all those seeking peace in these communities including our police forces for their dedication. (9.12 am Aug 5, 2024). More...



Newcastle by night - Spire of St John's

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@Bishop of Down & Connor, Alan McGuckian SJ - In recent days, we have witnessed disturbing scenes of violence, rioting and protest, often motivated by Islamophobia, xenophobia and racism, organised and mobilised by social influencers. It is particularly concerning that some individuals and groups have deliberately used the recent attack in Southport, in which three children lost their lives and many others injured, to misinform and inflame fear within the local community and beyond.

It has come to my attention that there are also those in Northern Ireland, often cloaked with the anonymity of social media, that are similarly stoking the coals of fear and mistrust against Muslims.



Newcastle by night - Spire of St John's

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Particularly in Northern Ireland, we have journeyed so far from a history of conflict and live now in a place that is rightly moving towards mutual respect, dialogue and tolerance. There is no place for racism and sectarianism in a modern civil society. Those who promote mistrust and fear do not speak in the name of Christianity.

Standing in solidarity and seeking an honest dialogue with our sisters and brothers from different cultures and religions is the only authentic Christian way forward.

I make an appeal calling for all to remain calm, to seek peace and to promote community harmony. Let us not be influenced by messengers of fear and misinformation.

@Liverpool's faith leaders - are pleading for peace and unity following the recent incidents in Southport.

Imaam Ahmed Ali, Roman Catholic Bishop Neylon, Barry Levene, President of the Merseyside Jewish Representative Council, and Bishop John (@JPerumbalath) have spoken out. Aug 2, 2024

@The Salvation Army - We are extremely concerned at the fear and intimidation created by criminal violence taking place in cities across the UK. Our leaders on the ground are committed to building strong, healthy communities where everyone can live in safety. We continue to work and pray for peace.

@Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich - To Muslim communities in Norfolk & Waveney:

At a time of increased tensions in some communities following the horrendous murders in Southport, and no

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doubt the anxiety this brings you and your community, please know of my prayers and concern as we stand together against violence.

Read novels and poems says Pope Francis

Pope Francis, who taught literature at a Jesuit school in the 1960s, has written a letter on why future priests (and all believers) must read novels & poems.

Francis says it is "unhealthy" that many training programmes see literature as "non-essential", and points out that "before our unremitting exposure to social media, mobile phones and other devices, reading was a common experience."

The pope says literature is an antidote to an "obsession with 'screens' and with toxic, superficial and violent fake news," and opens "new interior spaces."

His letter references T.S. Eliot, Borges, Proust, C.S. Lewis. For EnglishText click third line down at -
(<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2024/08/04/0600/01218.html>)

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Update from The Quills in Sudan

The Reverend Andrew and Mrs Joanne Quill write - We are currently preparing to teach in the local Bible college (Bishop Levi College) every Tuesday starting next week.

Things can be frustratingly slow here. However we found out that the reason few of the students had turned up for the start of term was because they were "footing it" on overgrown roads in the rainy season, some walking more than 50 miles!

Andrew will be teaching 'Biblical Interpretation and Homiletics' (preaching) to the 5 theology students in-training, and Joanne will be teaching 'Healing the Wounds of Trauma' to them and other church leaders. She will be taking them through a healing group for their own healing and then equipping them to facilitate healing groups.



The parish church Sion Mills

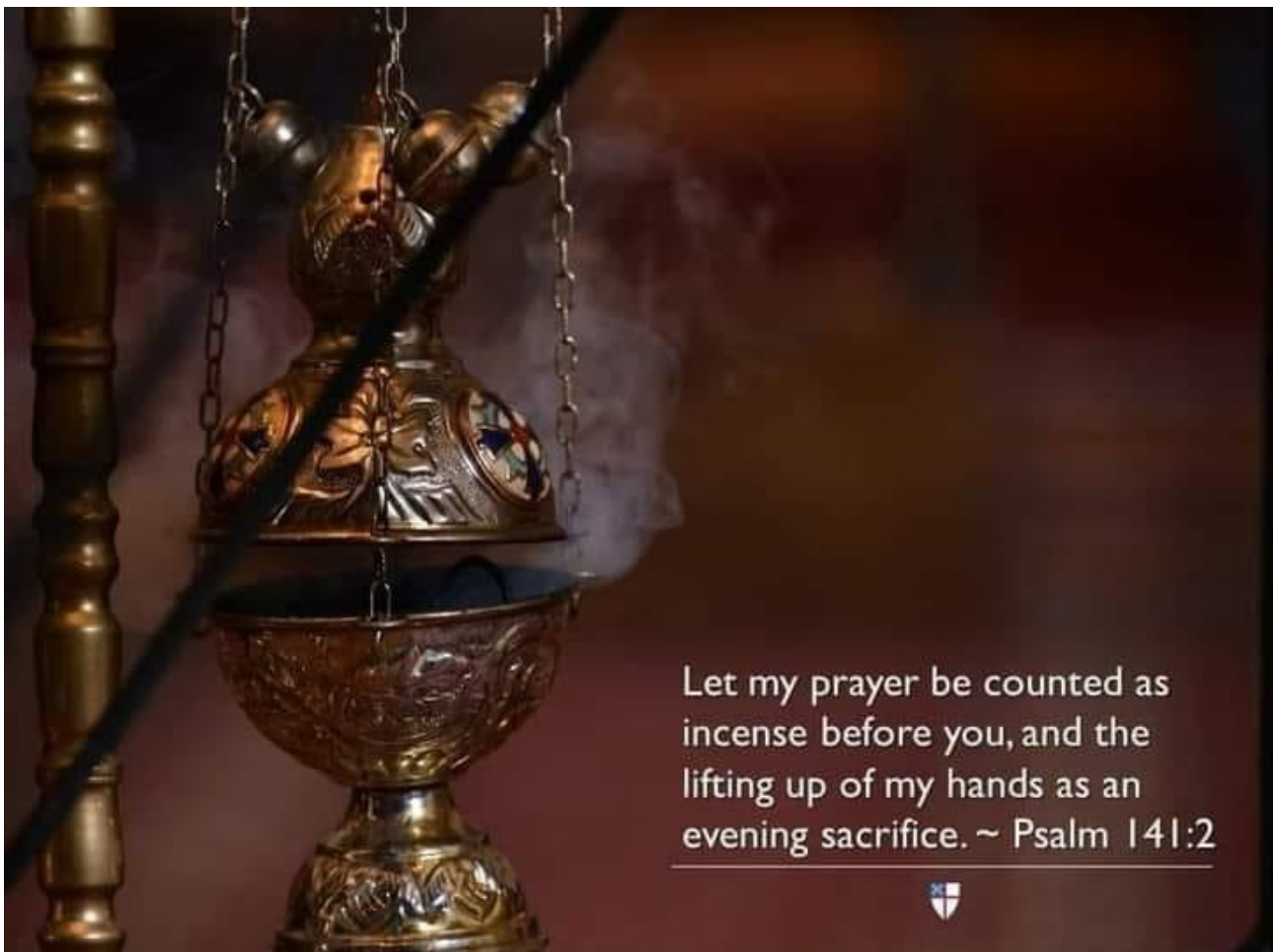
It is lovely to have a team of 3 men: Rev Dennis, Stephen, and Niall, from Ahoghill/Portglenone in Northern Ireland here in Ibba for 10 days. The parish have recently partnered with Ibba Diocese through CMSI.

They have been such a blessing. At the VTC, they have been teaching welding and brought a rechargeable welding machine. They have seen the struggles on site of sourcing materials, transporting materials if not locally available, and having enough electricity from solar power, especially after a dull day! Rev Dennis has been teaching every day in the morning service, and he and Niall have been visiting schools and projects within the diocese, while Stephen teaches welding.

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We are going to begin CHE training on a smaller scale, beginning at the cathedral, starting on 17th August (while we await funding). We trust this is all in God's wonderful timing. Finances are needed for food (when training all-day over a few days), training materials, and transport of certain materials for training on a larger scale, but once trained and running in their own communities, it should be self-sustaining.

We thoroughly enjoyed sharing in fellowship at Nazereth Parish just 1.2 km away. Andrew had the privilege to preach. They were having a fundraising for a new church building to replace the mud, wood, and grass structure. They have already completed the foundation.




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We are also looking forward to a pastor's fellowship on 8th & 9th August, where all the serving pastors and Diocesan staff will come together for fellowship and teaching. Pray for us as we share, facilitate, and participate.


You'll see from the photo that our work permits are finally in our hands. Just got them last Tuesday! Now we just have to get another work visa and our alien registration renewed, which needs to be done every 6 months! Such is the life of an 'alien' in South Sudan


We will be sending a link letter through CMSI in the next couple of weeks:


Prayer points:


 Give thanks for the work permits.

 Give thanks for the safe arrival of Rev Dennis, Stephen, and Niall.

 Pray for Rev Dennis, Joanne and Andrew as they preach tomorrow in three of the parishes in the diocese and for Stephen & Niall as they are interviewed.

 Pray for Andrew and Joanne as they teach each Tuesday in the college (from now until December), and for smooth translation in Zande.

 Pray that many will come to the CHE Sensitisation at the Cathedral on Saturday 17th August @ 2pm and that those who attend will catch the vision for the CHE Ministry.

 Pray for protection over Andrew and Joanne as rains increase the number of mosquitoes and the risks of getting malaria.

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Cathedral Calls

London - Nova Scotia links renewed



Bishop of London, Most Rev Sarah Mullaly - "Wonderful to celebrate 325 years of the Cathedral of St John's the Baptist Newfoundland with Bishop Sam Rose. Continuing the links with The Bishop of London since Rt Revd Compton". See -

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Cathedral site

(<https://www.ourcathedral.ca/the-anglican-church/>)

Wikipedia

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

[Cathedral of St. John the Baptist \(St. John%27s\)\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_of_St._John_the_Baptist_(St._John%27s))))

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Royal Society of Musicians - Belfast tomorrow

**We're heading to
Belfast
tomorrow**

Come and chat to
us at the Grand
Opera House on
7 August to find

out the support we offer music professionals, and chat to
fellow musicians from across the country.

Meet the team and Members, hear what the Society has
been up to and find out about the support RSM offers



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should you ever need it. We'll be welcoming everyone to the Upper Circle Bar 2-4pm.

RSVP below and please invite any guests along you think might be interested in joining our community of like-minded music professionals as a Member. Or call us on 020 7629 6137. Sign up for free: <https://bit.ly/45CF5K1>

Why Is It risky to not have a Succession Plan?

Not having a succession plan can disrupt your organisation.

Leadership gaps slow down progress and lower productivity. High turnover occurs as employees leave due to uncertainty, increasing hiring and training costs. Customer satisfaction suffers with inconsistent leadership, harming your reputation.

Board succession is also critical. Without a plan, losing board members can lead to poor governance and strategic disarray, weakening your organisation's foundation.



Don't wait for a crisis. Plan for the future with our succession planning training. Learn to create and maintain a strong succession plan for leaders and board members.

Register Now  <https://lnkd.in/es-CyVeR>

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"Senior Managers from the Charity Commission undertook succession planning training with CO3. The content and Valerie's delivery were both excellent and the focus was practical and relevant. The training left us with much food for thought and a roadmap for future work."

— Frances McCandless, CEO Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

By the end of this training session, you will:

- ✓ Understand Where You Are Now: Assess your current succession planning efforts and identify gaps.
- ✓ Define Succession Planning: Clearly understand what succession planning entails and why it's crucial.
- ✓ Recognise the Benefits: Learn how effective succession planning boosts productivity, morale, and organisational stability.
- ✓ Distinguish Between Executive and Board Succession Planning: Understand the unique aspects and needs of both executive and board succession planning.
- ✓ Explore Three Types of Succession Planning: Gain insights into strategic leader development, emergency succession planning, and departure-defined succession planning.
- ✓ Create a Succession Plan: Develop a comprehensive plan tailored to your organisation's needs.

✓ Use a Checklist & Review: Ensure your plan is robust with a practical checklist and regular review processes.

Secure your place here:

(<https://co3.org.uk/events/succession-planning-with-valerie-mcconville/>)

Laudato Si' and Trócaire launch parish resources for 2024 Season of Creation

Laudato Si' Working Group of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, and Trócaire, the overseas development charity of the Catholic Church in Ireland, have published the 2024 Season of Creation resources on the theme: To Hope and Act with Creation.

The Season of Creation runs from 1 September to 4 October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of the environment and ecology.

There is now a full page of resources available on the Bishops' Conference website catholicbishops.ie. These resources are specifically developed to support parish Care for Creation groups, Liturgy Groups, Parish Pastoral Councils and youth groups.

The resources include:

A guide for the five Sundays of the Season of Creation with suggested homily notes, content for prayer of the faithful, ideas for music and activities to bring this year's theme to life in every parish; a colourful leaflet with helpful tips on

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biodiversity, a 'rubbish graveyard' display, a Creation Walk, a service for the Blessing of Pets on 4 October.

The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September in 2015 as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season is marked throughout the Christian world to celebrate the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment.

Launching this year's resources Jane Mellett, Church Manager for Trócaire said, "we hope that this content and material will help parishes communities to celebrate the Season of Creation 2024. The resources have benefited from valuable feedback from the Laudato Si' Working Group, and from Trócaire, and can be accessed here" Ms Mellett concluded, "May this Season of Creation inspire us all to live 'our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork' (Laudato Si', 217)."

In their joint statement for the Season of Creation 2024, Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury said, "future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children."

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Heritage

Unique book sale towards maintenance of Culdaff's St Buadan's Church

Culdaff's St Buadan's Church which dates back to the 1740s is to host unique book sale.

St Buadan's Church of Ireland is holding a book sale on Saturday, August 10 at 3pm of items from the collection of Bruce and Wallace Clark.

The sale will include specialist religious books, as well as books on political history and literature.

Rachel McLaughlin of Donegal Daily wrote the following of a recent event - "A captivating journey through time unfolded in Culdaff this week as locals and visitors gathered to learn about the village's patron saint..."

22nd July, the feast day of St. Buadàn, was aptly chosen by Culdaff Development Association and Tidy Towns as a day to invite interested public to find out more about the cult of Culdaff's patron saint, and to explore the history of the village and area, hidden in plain sight.

Led by local historian and member of Culdaff and Cloncha Heritage Group, Neil McGrory, the audience of over 30 locals and visitors were treated to a rich explanation and exploration of the early medieval history of Culdaff.

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An important artefact and tangible evidence of the village as a monastic site is the bell of St. Buadàn. A copper hand-bell which is estimated to be from the 7th or 8th century and which, remarkably has not left the parish of Culdaff in 1300 years. One of nearly a hundred hand bells that have been preserved in Ireland, the bell of St. Buadàn is a significant relic in the stories of the Early Irish saint and has played a role in the feast day and cult of St. Buadàn throughout the years.



The talk in the Wee Hall, led to a small Turas or pilgrimage, around sites of interest in the village. The first, Ardmore Graveyard, which is significant as a possible site of an early Christian church founded by St. Buadàn, and part of a site linked to the Church of Ireland church. Then Neil took the

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group to the Culdaff River to the site of the steps and holy well. Although high tide covered the rock known as St. Buadàn's boat the role of the river, as a key transport route to Scotland, and as part of the sacred monastic complex was explored.

The last site, of the Turas, was the Church of Ireland church. Beside the river, its location suggests that it has been the site of religious importance prior to the establishment of the current building. The chairperson of the Culdaff Development Association, George Mills, provided background to the dedications on the walls of the church bringing the group into the more recent past of the village.

Leading the St. Buadàn's Feast Day event to the Church of Ireland church in Culdaff Village.

The event was made possible through the Culture & Creativity Project Scheme Award 2024 awarded to the Culdaff Development Association by the Donegal County Council and Creative Ireland. The success of the St. Buadàn's Feast Day event has encouraged the local organisers to plan further events for August and September. Neil McGrory, from Culdaff and Cloncha Heritage Group commented "The inaugural Turas Buadàn event will hopefully reawaken interest in Culdaff's monastic heritage and help us toward securing support for the restoration of the ancient stone steps and the Holy Well at Culdaff River."

He added, "the large turnout and community interest underpins the local engagement and appreciation

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of our unique heritage dating back to the sixth century. The restoration process could provide an important new location to add to the heritage sites of Inishowen.”

Architecture site with excellent photo gallery
(<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/40802006/st-budans-church-of-ireland-church-main-street-culdaff-culdaff-co-donegal>)

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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