

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Kilkenny Arts Festival

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Kilkenny Arts Festival



Kilkenny City this week is Kilkenny Arts Festival, Brendan Finan writes in the Journal of Music

It's everywhere you look, from sold-out events to ceramic crafts at stalls outside Kilkenny Castle to local artists advertised in shop windows. It's a festival town writ large, with far too much on to attend as an individual, and a real sense of something for everybody. I was there for Saturday and Sunday (10–11 August) of the opening weekend, and made it to most of the music events, which ranged from string quartets to contemporary opera to prog rock-inspired Malian music....

.... With the musicians amplified into the cathedral space, and a drifting light show around and above them, this vastness was felt, with singers, instrumentalists and



electronics creating monuments of sound. In his programme notes, Hillier postulates that the Mass of the title, which certainly isn't a Christian liturgical mass, instead invokes 'the seriousness of a Mass, a ritual.' There is certainly a rituality to it, with the musicians almost sublimated in the music and individual parts rarely surfacing from the massive textures.

Chamber Choir Ireland returned to St Canice's the following evening, with a palindromic programme beginning and ending with Brahms, followed by and preceding works for male choir by Schubert, the two halves of Wolf's *Geistliche Lieder*, and at the centre, Ligeti's *Lux Aeterna*. Putting Ligeti as the literal and figurative centrepiece is typical of Hillier's programming, with *Lux Aeterna*'s lace of sixteen individual voice parts almost recontextualised by Wolf's sensuous chromaticism. Chamber Choir Ireland were on fine form at

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both concerts, never losing clarity or shape with these challenging works, and Crouch, stepping into two complex programmes at short notice, showed an excellent rapport with them.

For entire article see - Review of Kilkenny Arts Festival 2024 - Journal of Music
<https://journalofmusic.com/reviews/dark-tales-city-play?>

Kilkenny Arts Festival
Visit www.kilkennyarts.ie.

News

Forest walk and community litter pick starts confirmation training



Young people from a group of North Connor parishes began their Confirmation Preparation Days this week.

A leader posted, “With 14 young people, we began with a walk around Mountsandel Forest (after the torrential rain stopped). Throughout the day we discovered God the

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Father, Son and Spirit using the Apostles Creed and even included serving the local community of Harpurs Hill through a litter pick!

“The evening closed with praise of contemporary and traditional hymns”.

Please pray for the next few days as we complete our BELIEVE confirmation preparation days - pray for



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transformational moments for each young person!

Confirmation Service will be Sunday 15th September in St Patrick's Coleraine in the evening.



Fond farewell to Queen's Catholic Chaplaincy members

The team commented, - We bade a fond farewell this summer to outgoing members of the Chaplaincy team, Cathal Hickey and Shea McMahon.

Cathal (right) departs for seminary at the Royal English College in Valladolid whilst Shea, (above) together with his wife Mickel and children Gus and Ruth head for parish ministry in Chicago.



“Know we are immensely grateful to you for the huge contribution you have made to Chaplaincy life these past two years. We will hold

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you in love and prayer as you set out on new and exciting adventures in the service of God and his people”.

New post for Belfast based choir conductor

Matthew Quinn the most able and popular conductor of Cappella Caeciliana is joining E_N_O from this season as their new Chorus Director.

“To take this position with a National company that I admire so much with such an internationally renowned chorus is a dream. Come down to the Coliseum and see us,” Matthew commented.

Cappella Caeciliana posted, “Huge congratulations to our Musical Director @MattQuinnsMusic on this very prestigious appointment.

“Our own 2024-25 season (our third under Matthew's direction) is currently being planned and we are delighted to have received Arts Council NI and National Lottery funding to support it

Stanford 100 Choral Evensong recorded in Armagh for BBC Radio 3

The Charles Wood Singers led worship in St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral.



Under the direction of David Hill and accompanied by Philip Scriven (Festival Organist) and Tingshuo Yang (Organ Intern), the service was recorded for broadcast in BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong strand on Wednesday 28 August and Sunday 1 September.

Music includes: Introit: Elgar - O Hearken Thou
Responses: Jeremy Dibble - Preces & Responses based on themes of Stanford. Canticles: Wood - Evening Canticles in E Flat, No. 2. Anthem: Stanford - Coronation Gloria in B Flat

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Belfast bandmaster for the Irish Guards

CSgt (BM) John Brown was born and educated in Belfast. In 2005 he graduated on a scholarship as a flautist from The Royal Academy of Music, London, where he studied with Michael Cox and Clare Southworth.



At 16, he was a woodwind finalist in the RTE Irish Musician of the Future, and in 2008 was the winner of the Clandeboye Irish Young Musician of the Year. He has played professionally with The Ulster Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and been privileged to play with such artists such as Sir Colin Davis and Sir Elton John throughout his performance career.

In 2010 CSgt Brown joined the Central Band of the Royal Air Force and enjoyed tours of Basel, Canada, Cyprus, New Delhi, and Washington, D.C. In 2015, after a battle with

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Focal Hand Dystonia, he became a Bass Clarinetist. On this instrument, he has also led the Central Band Clarinet Quartet.

Having always been passionate about conducting, he left RAF Music in 2020 with a DipLCM in the discipline and transferred to The Royal Corps of Army Music to pursue his ambitions of being a Bandmaster. He subsequently graduated in August 2022 from the British Army Bandmaster Course, where he studied with Rob Wiffin and Robin Browning and took up position as Bandmaster of The Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra. In April 2024 we welcomed him to The Band of the Irish Guards.

On its occasional tours of Northern Ireland it is customary for the band to play in St Anne's Cathedral where the Regimental War Memorial is located.

Four facets of Presbyterian growth

“A church that seemed in slumber has now risen from its knees.” Four current examples, among many others writes Rick Hill.

Facet 1: An Ordination service of 3 new elders in our congregation in Galway on Sunday. These are the first local elders here in decades representing another significant step on the journey of the church here. I even dressed up for the occasion!

Facet 2: The newest Presbyterian Meeting House in Ireland. While the church is always more than a building,



this is a significant step for those in Maynooth Community Church who have worshipped consistently and faithfully in rented premises since their inception. It is also symbolic of the life, growth and vision here.

Facet 3: Several events took place recently organised by Presbyterians, as part of West Belfast's Feile Festival, with a positive response.

If you'd have told me that a few years ago, I think I would have laughed.

A new monthly worship service begins on the Falls Road next month via the team an tionólann



Facet 4:
Following the closure of our congregation in Wexford 2 years ago, **new work will begin next month in this town in the South East of Ireland** with the aim of re-developing a church here. You can follow the journey Wexford Church Development

Clergy and ministry

Dominican Sisters of St Joseph Ireland trip

Sr Maire Cooley OP is a teaching graduate of St Mary's University College, a member of the Queen's University family. Sr Cooley recently



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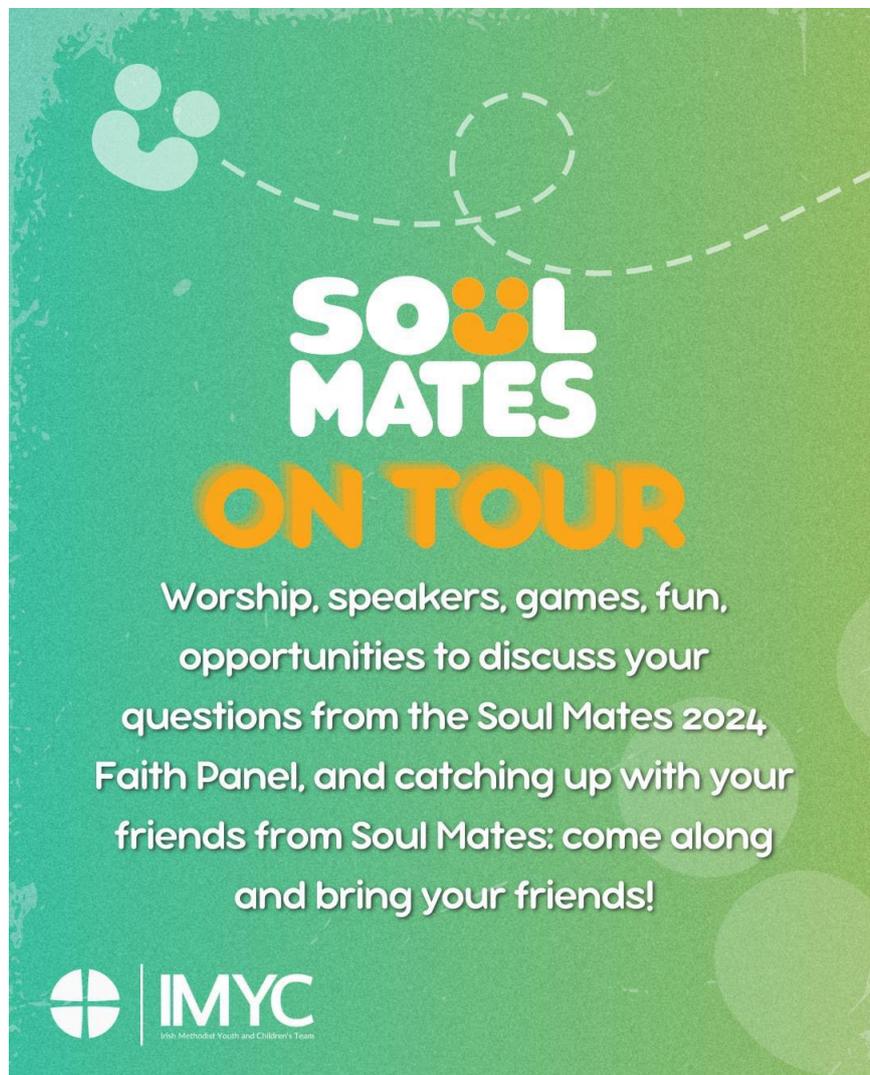
accompanied her community from the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph on a tour of Northern Ireland.

“Our first stop off the ferry in Belfast was the C. S. Lewis square! Lewis was born in Belfast in 1898, and the statues in the square pay homage to several characters from his famous book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. As the convent's resident C. S. Lewis enthusiast, Sr Lucy was especially thrilled to have her photo taken with each of the statues”



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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Soul Mates - Save the Dates!

IMC Children and Youth Team, Soul Mates (ages 9-13), is touring the Connexion over the autumn/ winter months with three exciting events.

Soul Mates House Party - Ardfallen, 2pm Sat 14th-2pm Sun 15th Sept

North Western Soul Mates Praise Party - Sligo Methodist Sat 23rd Nov 6:15pm-8:45pm

North Eastern Soul Mates Praise Party - Venue TBC Sat 25th Jan 6:15pm-8:45pm

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C of E unwraps 2024's Advent and Christmas campaign

Are you starting to plan ahead for the rest of the year? Join in a special webinar as we unwrap 2024's Advent and Christmas campaign, Follow the Star: Calm and Bright.

Hear about a range of resources we're offering nationally to help you plan your local services and events to welcome your community to celebrate with you this Christmas.

Register at cofe.io/CalmAndBrightWebinar

Perspective

Not Just Being a Bystander by Tony Macaulay

Last week I had the most surreal experience of my life. A musical, based on the memoir of my student days in the 1980s, has been playing at the Lyric Theatre.

It is the third of my memoirs to be transformed into a musical, but this time the show includes me meeting my wife Lesley for the first time, asking her out and proposing to her! It is quite overwhelming. Looking on at our lives played out on the stage with such talent, feels like being a very privileged sort of bystander.



Normally, being a bystander is not such a positive experience. Years ago, I was standing in a queue at a bus stop when a drunk man started to harass a young woman. My initial instinct was not to get involved, and I could see everyone else in the queue was thinking the same. The urge

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to remain a bystander was strong. Maybe one of us might phone the police. But that would be too late for the young woman.

In the end, I decided do something. I pretended to know the drunk man, stood in front of the woman and struck up a conversation, which distracted him until the bus arrived. I broke the by-standing habit of a lifetime, but I still struggle with it to this day.

Social psychologists call it ... "the bystander effect", when we are less likely to offer help to a victim when other people are present. They say the greater the number of bystanders, the less likely we are to do anything.

In recent weeks, I have been inspired by people who have chosen not to be bystanders.

Good people in a housing estate in Antrim, scrubbing off the racist graffiti from their neighbour's home.

Last week, Christians in Southport coming out to help their Muslim neighbours clean up their mosque following racist attacks.

This weekend, church and community leaders and thousands of us across Northern Ireland making clear statements of support for our Muslim neighbours and newcomer friends, in the face of threats and attacks from a small minority.

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The 'hate spreaders' didn't listen, but many others did, and are seeking to protect and support those who are most vulnerable.

We are living in a time when misinformation and hatred is deliberately spread digitally and co-ordinated to create fear, violence and suffering in our community.

Here and now is not the time to be a bystander.

This is not a time to pass by on the other side.

It is a time to remember what Albert Einstein said,

“The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.”

[This is the script of Thought for the Day broadcast by Dr Tony Macaulay, on BBC Radio Ulster, 5th August 2024... and available to replay on BBC Sounds](#)

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Tony Macaulay is an author, peacebuilder and broadcaster.

He has spent the past 35 years working to build peace and reconciliation at home and abroad. His memoirs of growing up in Belfast, Paperboy, Breadboy and All Growned Up have been adapted into musicals. His autobiography Little House on the Peace Line tells the story of how he lived and worked on the peace line in the 1980s. His debut novel Belfast Gate was Book of the Week in the Irish News and his latest novel, Kill the Devil, co-authored with Juvens Nsabimana is a love story between a perpetrator and survivor of genocide in

Rwanda. Tony has been a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio and is a regular speaker at universities and colleges in Europe and the USA. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Ulster University for services to literature and peacebuilding at home and abroad.

Poem for today

A Parsonage In Oxfordshire

by William Wordsworth

Where holy ground begins, unhallowed ends,
Is marked by no distinguishable line;
The turf unites, the pathways intertwine;
And, wheresoe'er the stealing footstep tends,
Garden, and that domain where kindred, friends,
And neighbours rest together, here confound
Their several features, mingled like the sound
Of many waters, or as evening blends
With shady night. Soft airs, from shrub and flower,
Waft fragrant greetings to each silent grave;
And while those lofty poplars gently wave
Their tops, between them comes and goes a sky
Bright as the glimpses of eternity,
To saints accorded in their mortal hour.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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