

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Confirmation preparation

August 19, 2024

Image of the day



Confirmation preparation

After 3 days, 7 North Connor churches, and many discussions, BELIEVE 2024 came to a close.

Thursday began with a session in Kildollagh by Rev Patrick Barton on the Sacraments before they headed out to Swann's Bridge for some Paddleboarding - thanks were expressed to Dan and Eunan from LongLine for a fantastic session on the River Roe.

“We then heard the testimonies of Jess and Jonny when we looked at the topic of why and how do I share my faith”.

The evening finished with a reflection on the 3 days and closing praise in Ballyrashane Parish Church.



The leaders said - A massive well done to each young person who was involved - their contribution in each session and activity was fantastic and how openly they shared and got involved in everything over the 3 days!

Thank you to the BELIEVE team who planned and delivered a fantastic three days.

It wouldn't have been possible without these amazing volunteer leaders

Please continue to pray for these young people. God is on the move in their lives



News

RCO award for Fisherwick Director of Music

Neale Agnew has gained his ARCO (Associateship of the Royal College of Organists).

This is a very well deserved achievement. Neale is Director of Music at Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, a former president of the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters, and very much involved in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition.

New members for Queen's University Chaplaincy

The Catholic Chaplaincy team at Queen's University, Belfast recently enjoyed some graced time with their partners FOCUS.

Fr Dominic and Shannon joined members of their mission team at their training camp in Gaming, Austria, as they prepare for another great year of sharing the joy of the Gospel at Queen's.



They said, “We look forward to welcoming to Belfast the most recent additions to our mission team, Sean and Michael”

Taking a tour through west Belfast’s long-lost Presbyterian past

A new walking tour detailing the lost heritage of west Belfast’s Presbyterian religion was launched last week as part of Féile an Phobail.

A group of 12 determined volunteers from both the Falls and Shankill Roads, which includes multiple Presbyterian ministers, historians and even a GAA senior official, are bringing to life the stories of forgotten Presbyterian congregations, as well as prominent Belfast figures from the religion’s history.



Starting at College Square North, the 1.4-mile walking tour looks at major figures in the Presbyterian community such as Robert MacAdam, an Irish linguist who was a major influence in the language's revival during the 19th century.

Also known as 'Shipboy', MacAdam was known to collect Irish manuscripts and was keen to promote the study of the Irish language in a time when it was under threat. He was said to be fluent in over 10 languages, and published many books in support of the Irish language.

The tour also examines Presbyterian contributions to education and Belfast's industrial base. Throughout its history, the religion promoted key thinkers in the areas of medicine, the arts and engineering.

Participants will learn about previous Presbyterian congregations, including that of the College Square North church, the first Presbyterian church to be founded on the Falls.

Strong ecumenical emphasis at the World Methodist Conference

There was a strong ecumenical emphasis at the World Methodist Conference.

As well as a plenary address by Bishop Olav Fykse Tveit, Presiding Bishop of the (Lutheran) Church of Norway, there was a panel discussion, with representatives of the Anglican





Communion, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the Salvation Army and the Catholic Church. “It was good to share in this panel with ecumenical colleagues” was the view of all the participants. The WMC later hosted a lunch for lots of ecumenical guests.

UMC Bishop Wallace-Padgett elected as new president of World Methodist Council

The new president of the World Methodist Council (WMC), an international organization that connects and represents over 80 Methodist, Wesleyan, and related Uniting and United Churches worldwide, is a bishop of The United Methodist Church: Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett.



Bishop Wallace-Padgett (left above) was elected as the new WMC president on Wednesday, (August 14, 2024) during the World Methodist Conference taking place in Gothenburg, Sweden. The Conference meets every five years.

“I am honored to serve as president of the World Methodist Council for the next five years,” she said, noting that “the Council brings together over 80 communions within the Methodist, Wesleyan, and related Uniting and United Churches tradition during this time of increasing division in our world and the body of Christ.”

Bishop Wallace-Padgett said focusing on commonalities as opposed to differences is worthy work that surely pleases God. “The world is a better place as we live into the World Methodist Council vision of spreading the Gospel and making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.”



Under Bishop Wallace-Padgett's leadership, the World Methodist Council is poised to continue its vital work of

fostering collaboration, supporting member churches, and promoting the Wesleyan message of God's love and grace and to help all the churches within the World Methodist Council to strengthen one of the core commonalities within the Methodist and Wesleyan heritage: connectionalism.

Cathedral Calls

Cathedral uses QR codes to shed light on dark past of monuments linked to slavery

Gloucester C of E cathedral will use QR codes to explain how its monuments are linked to slavery.

Gloucester Cathedral contains the tomb of Edward II along with memorials honouring more obscure figures whose stories will be researched as part of a new project. QR codes will be placed around the cathedral, which when scanned will provide explanations of how the people memorialised are linked to slavery.

Leaflets will be provided to inform visitors about the slave profiteering of prominent Gloucester locals honoured in the cathedral, with information and guidance sought from by a panel drawn from the “city’s diverse communities”.

The cathedral said that the project would be conducted “in keeping with our principles of social justice”.

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It comes amid a broader commitment from the Church of England to review contentious monuments in order to “provide safe spaces for all”.

Canon Rebecca Lloyd said that the project “aims to shed light on the cathedral’s past through the research of the stories of those who are memorialised within the fabric of the cathedral”. She added that the cathedral was “committed to learning more about our building’s history and those who have formed it”.

QR codes have been used as a means to retain statues, in line with government guidance, while also setting out the potentially contentious biographies of the people they depict. Camden council recently affixed QR codes to statues of Virginia Woolf and Bertrand Russell to explain their “unacceptable” views.

The cathedral project may include James Henry Monk, the Bishop of Gloucester from 1836 to 1856. The bishop was a supporter and patron of George Wilson Bridges, a rector in Jamaica who became a prominent anti-abolitionist.

A plaque in the cathedral commemorates Admiral Henry Christian, who, initial research has suggested, helped move cotton through a blockade to ensure items produced by the slave-owning Confederate States made it to Britain during the American Civil War.

Free Precincts at Canterbury

The perfect chance to discover England's First Cathedral this summer

Enjoy free entry to large parts of Canterbury Cathedral's Precincts from 9am to 9pm Monday to Saturday, and 11.30am to 9pm on Sundays during our second Free Precincts Trial (Saturday 17th August to Sunday 8th September 2024).

Sightseers will only need to pay to enter the Cathedral building and areas including the Cloisters, Herb Garden and Chapter House during standard sightseeing hours.

Find out more at www.canterbury-cathedral.org/free-precincts

It is always free to attend a service of worship or to come into the Cathedral to pray.

Clergy and ministry

Stabbed military chaplain Fr Paul F Murphy 'very much a hands-on padre'

Defence Forces chaplain Fr Paul F Murphy, who was stabbed on Thursday in an incident in Galway, has been described as "an exceptional chaplain" who is "revered" by the troops at Renmore Barracks, where



[Role in annual military pilgrimages to Lourdes means Fr Murphy is well-known among European armies](#)

has served since joining the Defence Forces at the start of 2014.

The attack, just before 11pm on Thursday night at Renmore Barracks, left Fr Murphy (52) with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

Originally from Waterford, Fr Murphy studied at St John's College in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore and was ordained at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity in the city in 1996.

He had previously served as a priest in Clonmel before spending six years at Dunhill and Fenor Parish in Tramore, Co Waterford, which he left at the end of 2013 to take up the chaplain's role in Galway. He has been based at St Patrick's

Garrison Church, Renmore Barracks since then, with the 1st Infantry Battalion.

He is described as a well-known and popular figure in the Defence Forces, “very much a hands-on padre in terms of working with the troops in every aspect of their lives”, says head chaplain to the Defence Forces, Fr Paschal Hanrahan. “He is absolutely revered by them.”

Fr Murphy has made numerous overseas trips over the past decade, including to Syria and Lebanon to visit Irish troops, and is also centrally involved in organising Defence Forces involvement in the annual international military pilgrimage to Lourdes.

“He would have an incredible reputation among the European militaries because of his involvement in that,” said Fr Hanrahan.

In Galway, he said, his work involves supporting members of Defence Forces in all aspects of their work and personal lives.

“It’s about being there from the crack of dawn to the last thing at night, being with the soldiers, whether they’re in training or grumpy old NCOs – just being a person they can turn to.

“It’s about being there for a coffee or a chat, as much as the sacramental occasions... the weddings and baptisms,” he said.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Introducing Ballyclare Male Choir

Established in the town of Ballyclare in 1933, Ballyclare Male Choir is one of Northern Ireland's oldest Male Choirs.

Over the years, they have delighted audiences extensively throughout the UK, Ireland and other parts of Europe. Although the choir is still based in Ballyclare with much support from around Ballyclare, Ballynure and Larne, enrolment now extends much further afield with members travelling from Newcastle, Saintfield, Crawfordsburn, Lisburn and Belfast.

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The current conductor and director of all things musical is Sheelagh Greer, a personality well known in musical circles in Northern Ireland and further afield. She was recently awarded the British Empire Medal by King Charles III on his first Birthday Honours List for her contribution to music in the Province. The Choir are delighted and feel very proud to have Sheelagh leading them from the front. The Choir is available for hire for a variety of performances including concerts, church and community events, civic events, weddings, and other special celebrations and new members are always welcome. Further detail are available on their website: www.ballyclaremalechoir.com

The Last Monastery of St. Columbanus - EWTN News In Depth

To mark 25 years of Columbanus Day, a group of Columban religious, and pilgrims, travelled to Bobbio in the north of Italy to walk in the footsteps of the Irish saint.

While doing so they learnt about his incredible life and journey across Europe, and how his efforts for peace and unity helped shape the Europe we live in today.

By EWTN News in Depth

(<https://youtu.be/lmZnveLBUqw?si=yXekKKZXS7f1iVJG>)

Web stream weekday Evening Prayer from Down Cathedral

August 19, 2024

If you are able, please join online via the Cathedral stream for Evening Prayer at 5 o'clock.

The stream can be found at <https://www.downcathedral.org/>
Just scroll down a wee bit.

Heritage



KILSHANNIG HERITAGE SOCIETY PRESENTS:

**KILSHANNIG CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD
TOUR & ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST

7PM

KILSHANNIG CHURCH & GRAVEYARD

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Kilshannig Church and graveyard tour with Ecumenical Service

**Kilshannig (Newbury) Church & Graveyard Near Mallow
Co Cork will be open on on Friday 23rd of August at
7pm.**

Built c1810 Kilshannig got it's name from St Sean ache who set up a small Monastery in the 6thC. Lots of interesting headstones, the earliest dating to 1717.

The Lombard Tomb contains the ancestors of Princess Diana and Nano Nagle. The Mullane Tomb contains Daniel O'Connell's mother. To learn more look up The Kilshannig Heritage Society. Great information on their page.





 **National
Heritage Week**
A Heritage Council programme

Friday 23rd August

Family Drop-in Workshop

2pm - 4pm / Free/ All Welcome

View the exhibition of The Red Book of Ossory and try some Illuminated Lettering. This workshop will be suitable for all ages.

Saturday 24th August

A Walk to Kennyswell

11am / Free/ All Welcome

Join us at the Cathedral for a short walk to our local holy well, named after St. Canice..

Your guide will give a short talk on the history of the well

Admission to Red Book of Ossory Exhibition afterwards..

Booking Advisable on Eventbrite

Wild Child Day

12 - 4pm/ Free/ All Welcome

Join us for a treasure hunt around the grounds of the Cathedral and receive a prize on completion!

 **ST. CANICE'S
CATHEDRAL**
AND ROUND TOWER

 **National
Heritage Week**
A Heritage Council programme

In the media



Evangelicals launch official support group for Kamala Harris

US Vice President Kamala Harris is making inroads with the country's Christian demographic.

'Evangelicals for Biden' has rebranded as 'Evangelicals for Harris' in an effort to mobilise Christian voters for the presidential candidate.

The group argues that the 59-year-old's faith "shines through in her clear Christian values displayed in her unwavering support for American families."

In a Facebook post, the group highlighted Harris's commitment to family-oriented policies, stating: "From advocating for the child tax credit to her pro-family stance



throughout her entire career, Kamala has consistently demonstrated her commitment to policies that uplift and empower. She keeps her trusting relationship with God at the centre, sharing, ‘Like many people of faith, I have private conversations with God where I usually ask for the strength and protection to make good decisions and do the right thing.’”

Created by Faith Voters, the group cites Harris's record on infrastructure, healthcare, and climate change, as well as her Baptist faith, as reasons for their support.

They hold Zoom calls every Wednesday with key speakers endorsing Harris, including Billy Graham’s granddaughter, Jerushah Duford.

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Despite these efforts, winning over evangelical voters remains challenging for Democrats, as over 80 percent of white evangelical voters back Trump, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in April.

By Kelly Valencia, Fri 16 Aug 2024

Poem for today



Dingle

by Bernard Kennedy

From main roads through the pass
and there, beneath,
as if a mountain gate over
a valley, lake or bay
a golden road
to visit a past,

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Peig, the Blaskets,
basket of another age
of literature,
all writers on the island,
an embryo,
of Ireland, vacated
to new lands.

Or round Sleah head,
a bleak peak,
a romance with Ryan's
daughter.

A corner, fluid
of memory and romance,
Now we are too
sophisticated,
beyond the word
of linking
mountain and sea,
and honesty.
Dingle beautiful town.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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Church News Ireland

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