

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Ballintoy by Gaz Drone

August 26, 2024

Image of the day

Ballintoy by Gaz Drone



Thanks to 'Gaz Drone' for these superb shots and commentary

I've been sharing some of the beautiful County Down beaches lately but respect where it's due, the North coast definitely has some gems! Ballintoy is a beautiful spot if you can get it when it's not overrun by tourists.

Ballintoy Harbour is a picturesque fishing port located on the stunning Causeway Coastal Route in Northern Ireland. Known for its dramatic cliffs, rugged sea stacks, and tranquil waters, it has become a popular destination for tourists and nature lovers alike.



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This charming harbour, with its quaint fishing boats and traditional buildings, has gained worldwide recognition as a filming location for the popular TV series "Game of Thrones." Its stunning scenery and unique atmosphere have made it a must-visit spot for fans of the show and those seeking a taste of Northern Ireland's natural beauty.

News



Down and Connor youth team go Airtastic

Members of the youth team gathered for a reunion at Airtastic Entertainment Centres NI Lisburn for an evening of fun and catch up.

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“It was a lovely evening to catch up and share stories and think about Lourdes 2025”. Photo below - see next page





Ballyclare and Ballynure All stars holiday club

The theme on Day 5 was serve one another.



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“What a great end to this week, it was so great to meet all the kids who came. Thank you to everyone who helped out making this week happen!”



Marcus completes Gala, prepares for Kilimanjaro Climb in 50 days

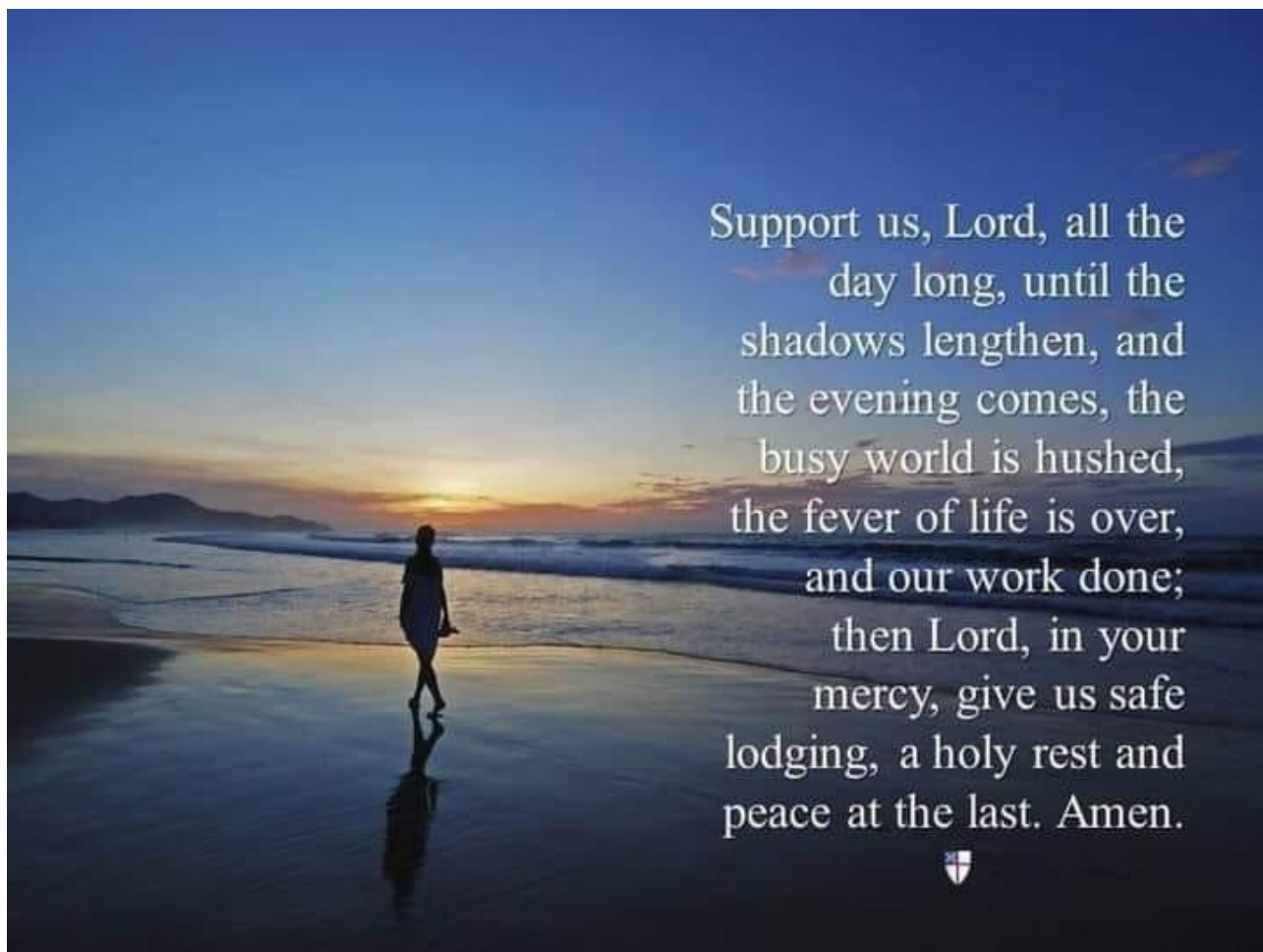
The late Lord Lieutenant of Antrim, Joan Christie CVO OBE, would have celebrated her 80th birthday this summer.

To honour her memory, son Marcus brought together almost 200 of her friends, family and the community in a glittering gala ball held in the Royal Court Hotel in Portrush, which has raised £10,000 for local charity, Air Ambulance NI.

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Since his mother's passing, Marcus has become a dedicated supporter of Air Ambulance NI. In just 90 days, he will embark on a new challenge: climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, standing at 5,895 meters. The climb, set for October, is expected to take six days.

Marcus commented, “Fundraising for Air Ambulance NI is important for me to keep mum’s memory alive and if I can help a future patient it is all worthwhile. Last summer I did the three highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in just over 21 hours, and the gala was an opportunity to bring family and friends together. Everyone has been fantastic in sponsoring, donating prizes and making donations, I’m very grateful. For Kilimanjaro I’ll certainly be pushing the limits physically and mentally, but I’m focusing on the sense of achievement at the top.”



Support us, Lord, all the
day long, until the
shadows lengthen, and
the evening comes, the
busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over,
and our work done;
then Lord, in your
mercy, give us safe
lodging, a holy rest and
peace at the last. Amen.



Kerry Anderson, Head of Fundraising at Air Ambulance NI said, “Kilimanjaro is one of the most challenging charity treks at altitude; but Marcus’ is very determined, when he decides to take something on he doesn’t do it by halves! Last year he raised over £20,000 from the three peaks and the recent gala has been another huge success, we are all confident he will reach the summit. We wish him every success for the training over the next 50 days and encourage support through his JustGiving Page <https://www.justgiving.com/page/marcus-christie-1723822056621>

Joan passed away in an accident on New Year’s Day 2023 and the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) team were tasked to the incident. Marcus has since visited the airbase and met the pilot who flew the team to his mum that day, commenting, “It was very meaningful to meet Clive and he had very kind words about mum which means a lot.”

Air Ambulance NI is the charity that works with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service to provide the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service for the province. The service is needed on average twice every day to those who are critically ill or injured and relies on the public to help raise £2.5m in fundraising every year. More information can be found at www.airambulancenireland.org

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Irish Presbyterians join in African centenary celebrations at Civo stadium

Representatives of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) will join the grand celebrations in Lilongwe, capital of Malawi, this weekend for the centenary of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP).

The CCAP has been the Irish Presbyterian church's global mission partner for 70 years, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter.

The main celebrations take place at 25,000-seater Civo stadium in the capital, with a thanksgiving service tomorrow (Sunday), at which the President of Malawi Dr Lazarus Chakwera will be guest of honour.

Representing Irish Presbyterianism will be Rev Stephen McCracken, convener of his church's council for global mission, and council colleague Mrs Heather Clements.

The pair will present to the African church, on behalf of Irish Presbyterians, a specially engraved commemorative cut glass Galway crystal cross.

Mr McCracken, speaking from Malawi, where he was a Presbyterian missionary for eight years (1999-2007), says: "This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to God for the work that CCAP has been doing over the past 100 years."

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During his time in Malawi, Mr McCracken now minister of First Ballymoney church, taught in Zomba theological college, which trains candidates for the African church.

He adds: “As we have served and shared together, the building of God’s kingdom in Malawi, the celebrations are an occasion to rekindle the long-standing, valued relationship that we have, while seeking God’s way forward in collaborating in mission in central and southern Africa.

“It will also be an opportunity to consider how, with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we can support and encourage mission and ministry of the church here. This is something that I look forward to exploring with CCAP’s synodal leadership teams days.”

The general assembly of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian is comprised of five synods, three in Malawi – synods of Livingstonia, Blantyre and Nkhoma and synod of Zambia and synod of Harare in Zimbabwe.

Originally, Free Church of Scotland missionaries established a mission called Livingstonia in the north of the country in 1875, named after celebrated Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who reached what is now Malawi in 1859.

The following year the Church of Scotland set up a mission station in the south and named it after the Livingstone’s Lanarkshire birthplace, Blantyre.

Together, they formed the nucleus of two synods which established the CCAP in 1924. In the 1880s the Dutch Reformed Church in southern Africa sent a mission to the central part of the country.

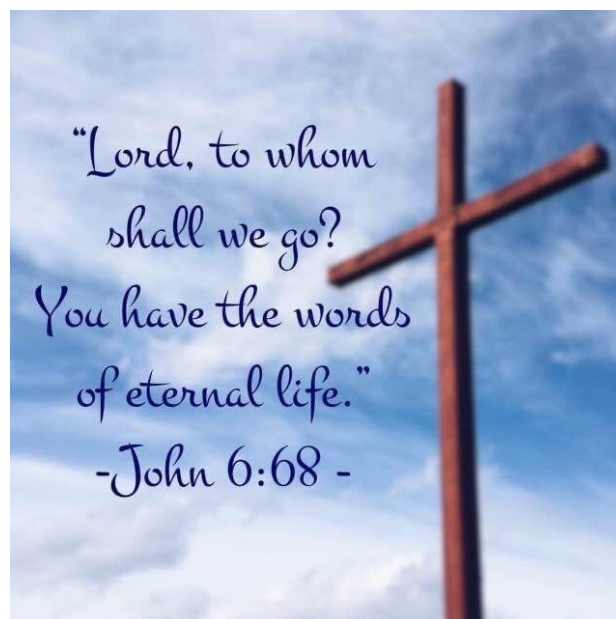
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As Nkhoma synod, it joined CCAP in 1926 followed by two synods in Zimbabwe (1965) and Zambia (1984). The church has now 1,000 parishes and 2.3 million members.

Mrs Clements explains: “Historically PCI’s global mission partners have encompassed a wide range of activities and have had a broad geographical spread as we have sought to work with partner churches, agencies and institutions globally.

“Although Irish Presbyterians have served in what is now Malawi since the 1890s, it was not until 1956 that PCI entered into a partnership-in-mission with CCAP, sending the Rev Bill Jackson two years later.

“Many have followed in his footsteps, including Stephen McCracken, and today PCI’s Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann have been working in theological education based in Blantyre since 2010, while Diane Cusick, following 20 years of service in Malawi, has been working as an early childhood development co-ordinator with the synod of Zambia, since 2016.”



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Cathedral Calls

Belfast recital in Cork

James Wilson of Belfast Cathedral gave a recital in St Fin Barres Cathedral Cork..

He remarked -

Great to be back in Cork to give today's lunchtime organ concert, this time featuring a programme of all American organ works, which suit this instrument down to a tee!



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Clergy and ministry



A rector for Magherafelt

A very warm welcome was extended to Revd Dr Andrew Campbell and his family to the Parish of Magherafelt .

Andrew was Instituted as Rector on Thursday 22nd August 2024 by

Archbishop
John
McDowell.

The preacher
at the service
was
Professor
Stephen
Williams.



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Professor Williams is a Welsh Presbyterian theologian, author and lecturer who has mostly spent his professional life in Presbyterian seminaries in the United Kingdom, firstly as Professor of Theology in the United Theological College, Aberystwyth (1980–1991) and then as Professor of Systematic Theology in Union Theological College in Belfast (1994–2017). He was appointed Honorary Professor of Theology at Queen's University Belfast in 2017.

Benedictine Community pays tribute to Adrian Flannelly

The Benedictine nuns at Kylemore Abbey in County Galway have paid tribute to the late Adrian Flannelly.

In a statement the community said: "Adrian Flannelly was a proud Mayo man, always ready to help Irish people, causes and charities. For over fifty years - in New York city and beyond - Adrian championed numerous Irish initiatives, including the Northern Ireland peace process, immigration reform and the rights of the Irish undocumented, as well as the Great Irish Hunger Memorial in Battery Park. His advocacy and commitment to the Irish diaspora in America won him an Irish Presidential Distinguished Service Award in 2021.

"Adrian also lent his support and voice to our Benedictine community at Kylemore Abbey in Co. Galway, welcoming us on his radio show on many occasions over the years – with Mother Maire Hickey OSB, Sr. Magdalena FitzGibbon OSB, and our friend Fordham Law Dean John Feerick being frequent guests on his show.



Adrian Flannelly, pictured with family, was honoured at the Spirit of Kylemore Awards in 2023.

"Adrian was a strong advocate for Kylemore's campaign to build the first female Benedictine monastery in Ireland in over 400 years and did much to help our US fundraising efforts. He served as master of ceremonies for two fundraising concerts; attended and promoted our events on his radio show and was honored at the 3rd Annual Spirit of Kylemore benefit in New York City in 2023 alongside Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Christine McGuinness.

"We mourn Adrian's passing along with his beloved wife, Aine Sheridan, and his children and grandchildren. We cherish the friendship and support he gave us through the years, and we pray in Irish (Gaelic) for his eternal rest:

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Suaimhneas síoraí dá anam uasal. With heartfelt gratitude, The Benedictine Community of Kylemore Abbey, Co. Galway, Ireland."

Courtesy - Irish Echo August 23

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Irish Arts 30th Birthday Party - Meet the soloist Laura Story

**Irish Arts say -
We are
excited to
introduce to
you our
fantastic soloists for our 30th Birthday Party over the
next few days!**



Laura Story is a wife, mother, songwriter, worship leader, author, artist, and Bible teacher. Her songs—which have won Grammys, Billboard Music Awards, and Dove Awards—

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include the certified platinum song “Blessings,” and Chris Tomlin’s “Indescribable.” She is the author of several bestselling books and Bible studies including *When God Doesn’t Fix It* and *So Long Normal*. Laura has a master of theological studies and a doctorate in worship studies, and has served as a worship leader at Perimeter Church in Atlanta since 2005. Her greatest joy is being a wife to Martin and mother to Josie, Ben, Griffin, and Timothy.

Tickets: <https://www.waterfront.co.uk/what-s-on/new-irish-arts-30th-birthday/>

Registration open for trans-Atlantic zoom celebrating women priests



Breaking Barriers:
*Decades of Women Priests
in the Church of England &
The Episcopal Church*

(((o))) An online event on
Thursday, September 5, 2024
1-2pm ET / 6-7pm BST

EDS

Emmanuel
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

St. LUKE'S
ATLANTA

In 2024, the Church of England celebrates 30 years of women priests, and the Episcopal Church USA celebrates 50 years.

On September 5 from 1-2

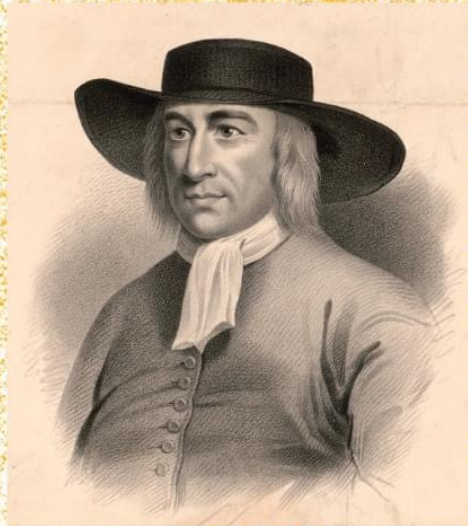
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pm ET / 6-7 pm BST, hear women clergy on both sides of the pond reflect on the roads they've traveled and the journey ahead. Panelists will discuss unique challenges they've faced in their contexts and their hopes for women's leadership across the Anglican Communion—the event is hosted by Episcopal Divinity School, Emmanuel Theological College, and St. Luke's Atlanta. Learn about the participants and register at -

<https://www.eds.edu/programs/breaking-barriers-decades-of-women-priests-in-the-church-of-england-the-episcopal-church>

EXHIBITION

GEORGE FOX, 1624 – 1691
AND THE IRISH QUAKER TRADITION



From 4th Sept 2024

DLR LEXICON

Exhibition on George Fox, 1624 – 1691 and the Irish Quaker Tradition

Official opening on Wed 4th of Sept at 6pm. Guest speaker - Charles B. Lamb.

Exhibition in DLR Lexicon, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.
Further talks will take place over the following 6 weeks.

Poem for today

The Last Rose Of Summer

by Thomas Moore

Tis the last rose of summer
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone:
No flower of her kindred,
No rose-bud is nigh,
To reflect back her blushes,
Or give sigh for sigh.

I'll not leave thee, thou lone one!
To pine on the stem;
Since the lovely are sleeping,
Go, sleep thou with them.
Thus kindly I scatter
Thy leaves o'er the bed,
Where thy mates of the garden
Lie scentless and dead.

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So soon may I follow,
When friendships decay,
And from Love's shining circle
The gems drop away.
When true hearts lie wither'd,
And fond ones are flown,
Oh! who would inhabit
This bleak world alone?

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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Posted early Monday to Saturday

Please share