

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Blessing of school bags in Belleek

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Image of the day



Blessing of school bags in Belleek

The blessing of the school bags in Belleek for William who is going into his final year at Primary School and Jonathan who is just starting school in Year 1.

Garrison group of parishes - On a blustery August morning we welcomed our children at Kiltyclogher church with a blessing on their backpacks for the new school year and a prayer for their teachers. (Apology to Rev Rebecca for cutting her head off 😞)



News

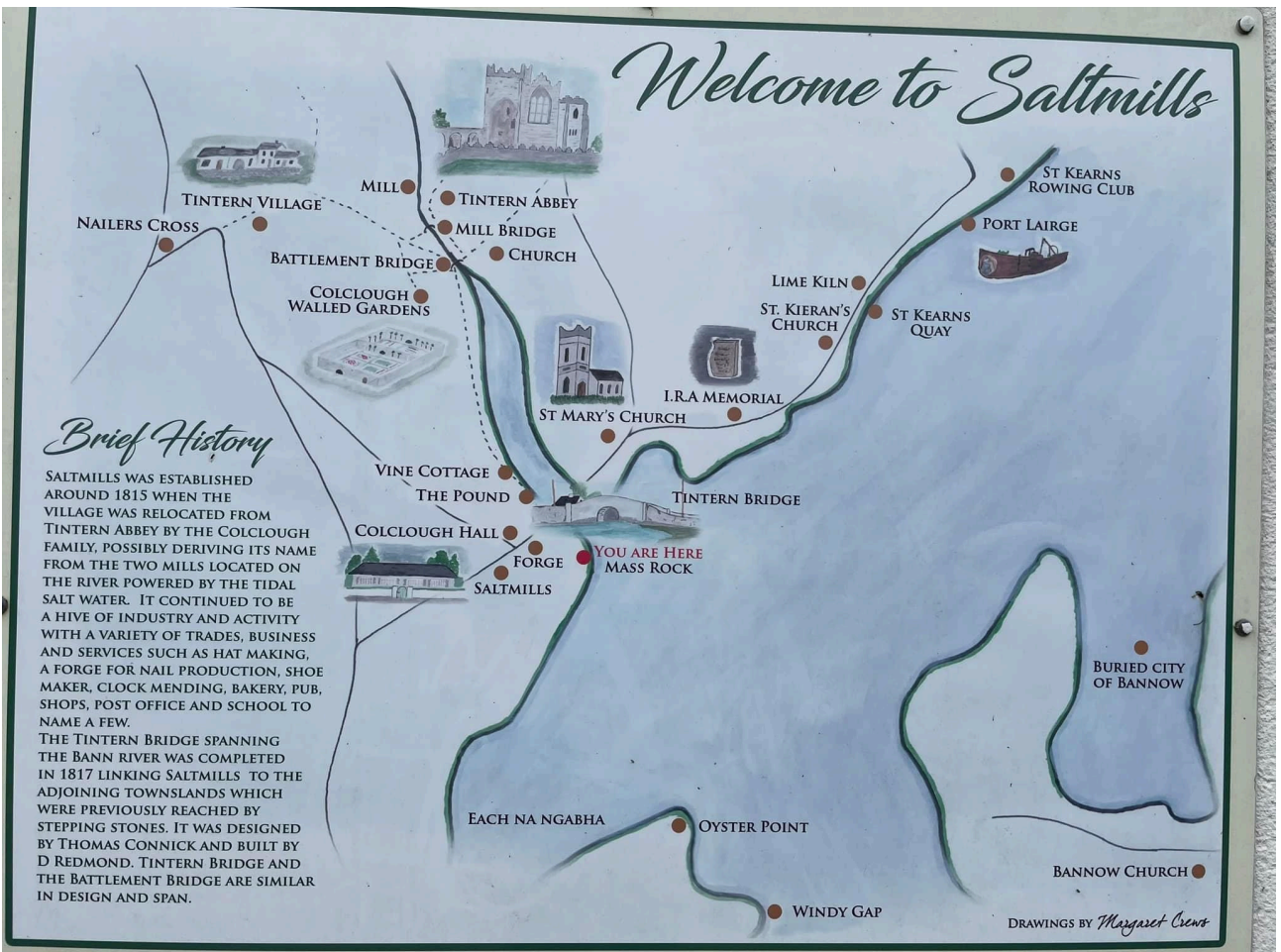
Cavan Methodist Pop up

Another great morning in Cavan and now with our nifty 'welcome to Cavan' popup.

“This became possible possible because Edgehill House colleagues took the idea, designed the banner, ordered it and even delivered it half way to Cavan - a small example of what our Methodist colleagues do for us every day”.

Ecumenical visit to St Mary's Tintern

Bishop Adrian Wilkinson - On Sunday participated in the annual ecumenical open air service outside the former St Mary's Church Tintern, which overlooks the sea and the village of Saltmills.





St Mary's Church Tintern

Heritage

Book on Nun's Cross Church and its Treasures

“National Heritage Week drew to a close for us, this afternoon, for another year. It saw an appreciable increase in the number of visitors we welcomed and for which we were truly grateful.

“One of our accompanying photographs, shows a group of visitors over the weekend listening to a talk given by the writer and art historian Mrs Patricia Butler, who is also a

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parishioner of Nun's Cross church. Patricia is the moving force behind our involvement, every year, in National Heritage Week, ably assisted by a faithful troop of volunteers to whom we are indebted for giving of their time in this regard.

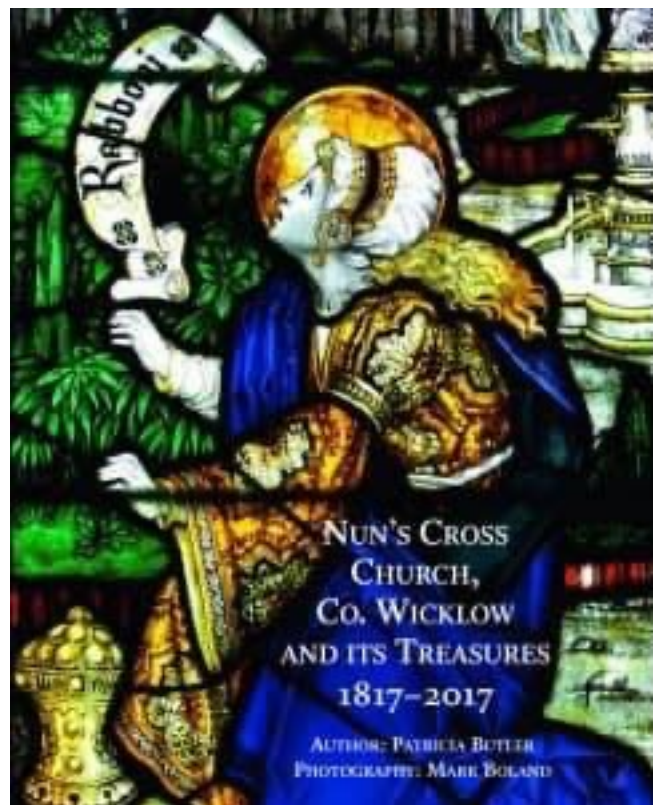
Mrs Butler is also the author of the now



well-known (and beautifully produced), fully illustrated, hard back publication, *Nun's Cross Church and its Treasures 1817 - 2017.

We would like to thank all of our visitors, benefactors - especially The National Heritage Council - and volunteers for their support and help in preserving and making known this repository

of national treasures in metal, glass, wood and stone.



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The book, detailing the history and contents of Nun's Cross church, is available by contacting the Hon. Parochial Treasurer, Dr Scott Golden by e-mail on killiskeytreasurer@gmail.com at a cost of €20 +p&p.



Watercolour of St Doulagh's Church

The Church of Ireland, United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock & St. Doulagh's is delighted to receive this rather charming water colour of St Doulagh's Church.

It was painted by Helen Colvill (1856-1953) late of Coolock House and Howth and was presented by her great great niece, Jane Caldwell after this Sunday morning's service.

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St Canices Walk to Kennyswell

“Thank you to all who joined us for our National Heritage Week event - A Walk to Kennyswell.

“We loved sharing this piece of Kilkenny’s history”.
Photos in pages 7 and 8 above.

Clergy and ministry

Priest in Charge of Ballynahinch



Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore has appointed Revd Anna Williams as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Magheradroll in the Diocese of Dromore.

Anna is currently serving as Curate Assistant in the Parish of

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Seapatrick, Banbridge. A date for the Service of Introduction will be announced in due course.

Farewell from Glendermott and New Buildings



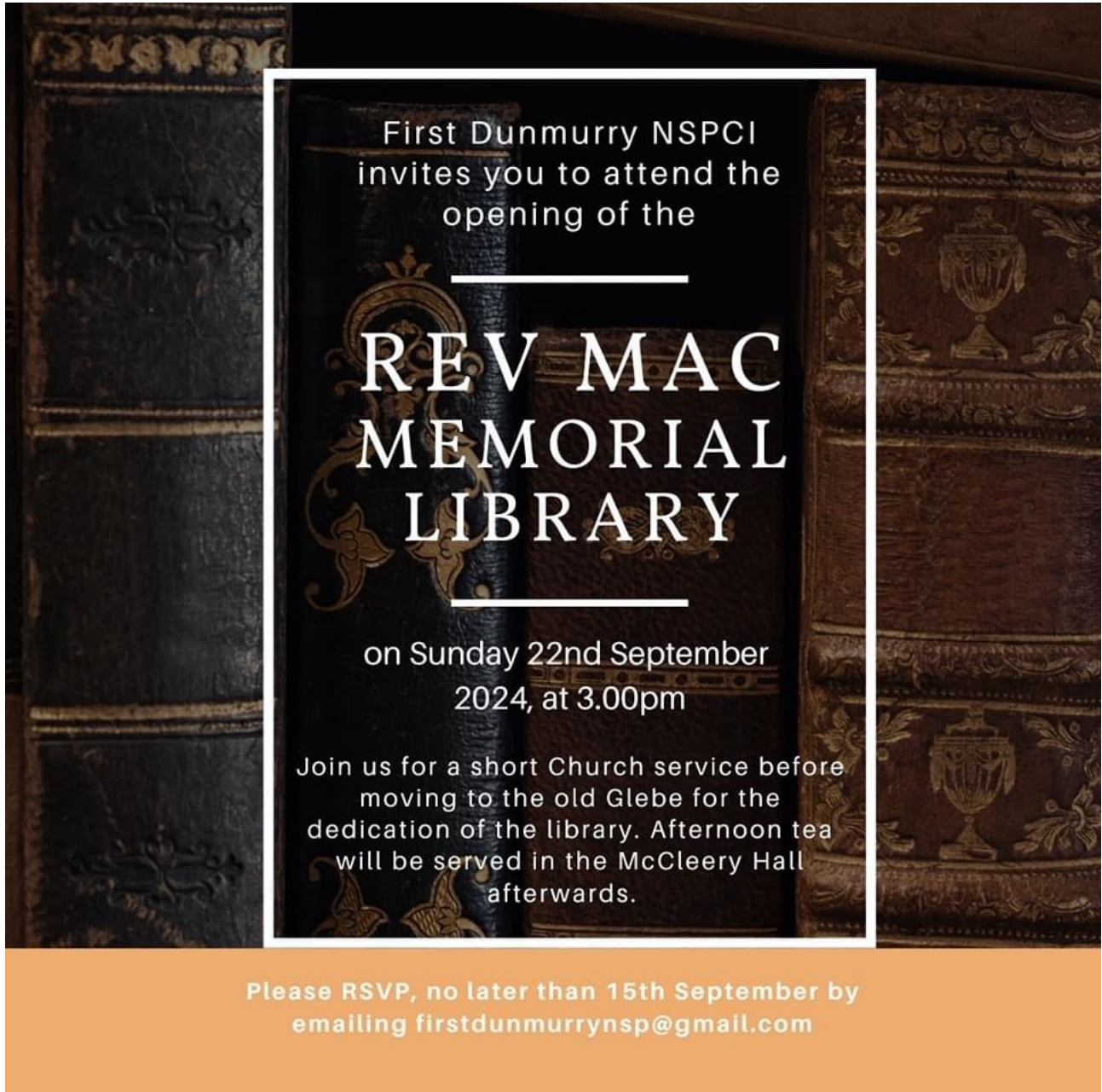
“Today we said thank you to Revd Brian Robinson who has finished his year of placement with us in the

Parish.

“We wish Brian every blessing in his future ministry. You will be missed here”. Derry diocese.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



First Dunmurry NSPCI
invites you to attend the
opening of the

**REV MAC
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY**

on Sunday 22nd September
2024, at 3.00pm

Join us for a short Church service before
moving to the old Glebe for the
dedication of the library. Afternoon tea
will be served in the McCleery Hall
afterwards.

Please RSVP, no later than 15th September by
emailing firstdunmurrynsp@gmail.com

Rev Mac Memorial Library, Dunmurry

**Join a short service in 1st Dunmurry NSP Church before
moving to the old Glebe for the Dedication of the Rev**

August 27, 2024

Mac Memorial Library on Sunday 22nd September at 3pm.

Followed by afternoon tea in the McCleery Hall. Everyone is welcome! Please confirm attendance for catering purposes no later than 15th September by emailing firstdunmurrynsp@gmail.com



**Thanks
from
Lough
Derg
worship
team**

**Lough Derg -
Thanks to all who have sent words of appreciation after
the celebration of Mass on Sunday morning on RTÉ.**

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If you missed it, you can watch a recording on the RTÉ Player:

<https://www.rte.ie/player/series/mass/SI0000003570?epguid=IH10003117-24-0018>

At the Red Doors in Dawson Street this Thursday

Tenor and piano magic this Thursday at St Ann's by Keith Matthews and Luke Lally Maguire



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1:20pm. Thurs 29 Aug. €10 at the big red doors.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

Resources for the 2025 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be available from the ctbi site below from early September 2024.

For 2025, materials were prepared by the ecumenical community at Bose in Northern Italy.

As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship service has at its heart, the Nicene Creed.



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Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief.

We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

Dates

Harvest Display Showcase

CUPPAS AND SNACKS



Donegal Town Methodist Church

11th - 13th October 2024
Friday, 7pm-9pm | Saturday 2pm-7pm
| Sunday 2pm-5pm |

Thanking God for the harvest and all we have
Service of Harvest Praise: Sun 13th Oct. 7pm



Entry is free; any donations for Church building funds greatly appreciated.

Donegal Town
550
1474-2024

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul.

However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time.

Christian Aid

EternalEach year Christian Aid provides the Go and Do action points for

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each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

Social media

You can also find updates about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Twitter by following the #wpcu2025 hashtag.

(<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>)

In the media

A historian of Ireland defends the Church – and attacks Sally Rooney : Daily Telegraph

In Roddy Doyle's 2013 novel **The Guts**, the ever-sweary Jimmy Rabbitte Sr looks back on Ireland's Celtic Tiger years: the unprecedented economic boom that began in the mid-1990s and ended spectacularly with the 2008 crash. "We felt great about ourselves," says Jimmy. "Now we're useless c-ts again."

James Walton writes - Though **The Revelation of Ireland**, a new history of the country from 1995 to 2020, contains plenty of quotations from contemporary fiction, this isn't one of them. Perhaps that's because **Diarmaid Ferriter**, professor of modern Irish history at University College

Dublin, is firmly against simplifications of all kinds; but, perhaps too, it's because irreverence isn't his thing either. Now and again, he does risk the odd joke: in his characteristically solid chapter on the **Good Friday Agreement**, he writes of the exhaustive North-South co-operation that accompanied it: "Who could say the shared diagnosis of chlamydial infections in ruminants was not the stuff of progress?" Mostly, however, he sticks to judicious assessments of recent Irish developments.

Or, more accurately, to judicious assessments of other people's assessments, since this is a book stuffed with footnoted citations from historians and commentators: 370 in that 70-page Good Friday chapter alone. The effect is of Ferriter conscientiously marking the work of his contemporaries and Ireland's general behaviour. Anyone who prefers history with a sweeping narrative drive should therefore look elsewhere – especially as his decision to break up the story into inevitably overlapping themes means, for example, that the 2018 abortion referendum crops up in the sections on political culture, the Catholic Church, women, healthcare and Ireland's relationship with the EU.

Fortunately, Ferriter's refusal to simplify – or let the minutest scrap of received wisdom slip through unscrutinised – does offer the compensatory pleasures that come with myth-busting. Discussing the much-romanticised Irish diaspora, he reminds us that many emigrants ended up slave-owners or responsible for racist violence in New York. Returning to the late 20th century, he points out that the Magdalene laundries for "fallen women" weren't closed because of

public outrage, but because of the spread of domestic washing machines.

As for the generally accepted idea that the Catholic Church has gone from overwhelming theocratic power to virtual irrelevance, Ferriter leaves no part of it standing. Not only was that former power wildly exaggerated, but **Ireland today is still “a pretty Catholic country”**, with Catholicism remaining “a bedrock of popular culture”.

But surely the scandalous extent of the Church’s culpability for child abuse is something that even he can be unequivocal about? Well, not quite. In today’s climate, he acknowledges, “it is extraordinarily difficult” for historians “to say anything that has the potential to cause pain to survivors”. But that doesn’t stop him from doing his historian’s duty of seeking to “appreciate the context of the time”. While sparing us nothing of the horrors perpetrated, or the cover-ups attempted, Ferriter allows himself to wonder whether there isn’t some truth to the notion that one reason bishops didn’t report abusive priests to the police was that it simply never occurred to them to do so. There was, after all, “no access to other ways of thinking” than the ones that have been (rightly) discredited since. He also notes that **“96.8 per cent of abusers were not connected to the Church”** and puts in several good words for the many fine priests and nuns who have seen their entire professions unjustly trashed.

At times, this admirable devotion to nuance can curdle into a frustrating absence of any form of authorial commitment – or into flat contradiction. Discussing the global spread of traditional Irish music, Ferriter tells us that “some saw its

commodification as problematic”, but not whether he was one of them. A lengthy catalogue of the misdeeds of the Irish police is interrupted by the sentence: “Overall, the force remained a trusted institution and a mirror image of the values of the society it served.”

Unexpectedly, one occasion on which he does come off the fence is for a full-throated attack on **Sally Rooney** and her generation for the “striking paradox” of their “self-esteem issues coupled with vanity”. He takes an unambiguously dim view, too, of today’s hedonistic young Irish women, who go to clubs apparently wearing no knickers.

Which brings us to a more overarching contradiction within the book. In theory, Ferriter is opposed to any nostalgia for a supposedly simpler, more spiritual Ireland. In practice, he sometimes comes suspiciously close to displaying it – not least in his **stern denunciation of the Celtic Tiger era**, which almost smacks of an old-school priest, and where he clearly sides with the people “who felt Ireland was afflicted with an obvious spiritual emptiness” rather than those who felt great about themselves like Jimmy Rabbitte. He also greets the undeniably disastrous crash that followed with something between grim satisfaction and mild glee.

In 1943, the then-Taoiseach, Éamon de Valera, made a famously sentimental speech about how “the ideal Ireland... would be the home of a people who valued material wealth only as a basis for right living”. For all his celebrations of Ireland’s emergence as a modern European state, and his laments for the ways in which it fails to be one, this is a sentimentality that, in the end, Ferriter seems to share.

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The Revelation of Ireland: 1995-2020 is published by Profile Books at £25. To order your copy, call 0808 196 6794 or visit Telegraph Books

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

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