

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Irish Girl Guides at Adelboden

January 6, 2024

Image of the day



Irish Girl Guides at Adelboden

The Senior Branch National Contingent trip to Adelboden, Switzerland, was a great success and a fantastic experience.

The girls visited the WAGGGS World Centre, Our Chalet, along with the Kandersteg International Scout Centre.

The Trummer Woodcarver shop was a huge hit, and everyone received their coveted engraved wooden woggle.



Adelboden pool provided a much-needed cool down on some hot days.

The scenery was breathtaking (especially when they were 2000m above sea level and lacking some oxygen!).

Life-long friendships were formed on this very memorable trip.

News

Murals and Grand Central seahorse

Cloughfern parishioners have been on tour again.

January 6, 2024



The murals of Belfast was the theme. And the refreshments were in the Grand Central Hotel with the highest seahorse in Belfast.





Greenisland Parish evokes its memories

“The displays aren’t even finished yet and we’ve got our first visitors already.

“Many many cries of “oh, isn’t that thingamebob? Y’know, sister of whatsername” Major parish anniversary next week.

Fancy meeting MU here

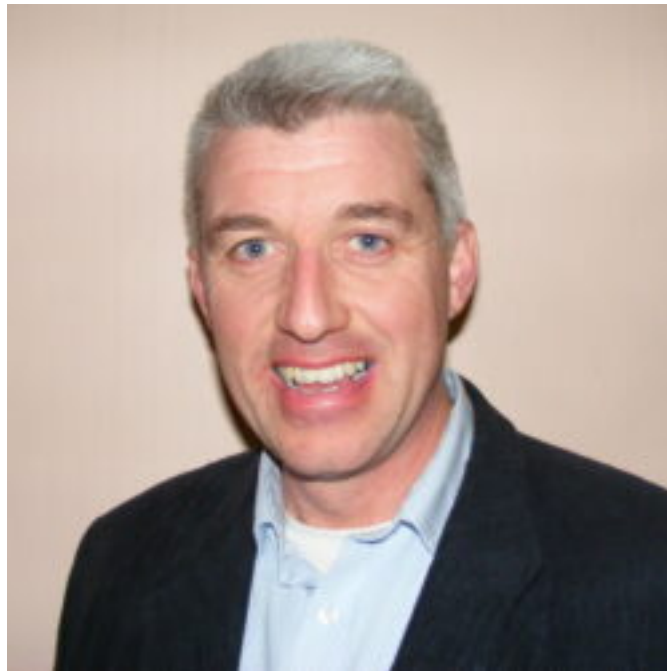
Members of the Inver MU branch were delighted to meet up with Kathryn Anderson, MU Provincial President for Canterbury Province and her husband Andy, when they docked in Killybegs on Thursday.



Sam Richmond welcomed the MU and friends to St. John's and shared the history of the church.

Gerard Gallagher appointed Secretary General of AMRI

The Executive Council of AMRI has announced the appointment of Gerard Gallagher (pictured) as the new



Secretary General of the Association of Leaders of Missionaries & Religious of Ireland (AMRI).

Mr Gallagher had been a member of staff with AMRI working on Communications and Membership Services. He recently held the role of Interim Secretary General. On taking up his new leadership position he said, “I am delighted to take on this appointment. AMRI has a great number of Religious ministering both in Ireland and on the missions, as well as lay missionaries, and all are involved in some extraordinary ministries promoting and living the Gospel in the world of today.”

Father Tim Lehane SVD, President of AMRI, welcomed the new appointment, stating, “Gerard brings his pastoral experience and personal skills to this role in AMRI. Together we have worked closely over this past year, and I know that our members will be fully supported by Gerard as he continues to deliver in line with our strategic objectives as Religious and Missionaries in the life of the Church.”



Gerard Gallagher has worked for the Church for over thirty years, mostly with the Archdiocese of Dublin in a variety of appointments in Catholic Youth Care, and the Office for Evangelisation. He held leadership roles during the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin in 2012, and during Ireland's hosting of the 9th World Meeting of Families in 2018 which was attended by Pope Francis. He continues to be involved in Young Adult Ministry, most notably with many World Youth Days. He is an accomplished writer and author of seven books on pastoral ministry, including, Faith – In Search of Greater Glory in Sport.

The Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland represents and promotes active collaboration between Religious Institutes, Societies of Apostolic Life and Lay Missionary Organisations. It seeks to respond to existing and emerging realities both in Ireland and overseas by supporting and energising the life and ministries of its members and of the wider Church with a renewed sense of hope and relevance, see amri.ie.

Cathedral Calls



St Peter's Cathedral stop on parish pilgrimage

Photographs taken during the Parish of Ardkeen Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Moneyglass, County Antrim on Thursday 22nd August.

There were stops at St Peter's Cathedral, Holy Family Parish and Tullyglass Hotel before arriving at the Parish of

January 6, 2024



Duneane, Moneyglass for Mass at the Shrine, including the Sacrament of the Sick and a communal rosary.

January 6, 2024

In dogs we trust

Chris Skepper, head vergger at Tewkesbury Abbey, Glos, has made his two labradors, Eric and Flo, official assistant verggers, with their own name badges.

They are to welcome visitors at the door and act as therapy dogs.



Saint Patrick's Armagh choir returns

“We look forward to having the Cathedral Choir back in the stalls on Sunday after the summer break. Choral Eucharist at 11am and Choral Evensong at 3.15pm. Everyone welcome.”

January 6, 2024

Red Book of Ossory exhibition launched at St Canice's Cathedral

What an amazing evening celebrating the launch of our Red Book of Ossory exhibition with guests from all over Kilkenny and Ireland.

The speakers were - Dean Stephen Farrell, Cllr Andrew McGuinness, The Rt Reverend Adrian Wilkinson, Bishop of Ossory and the Guest of honour, Malcolm Noonan T.D. who officially launched the exhibition. Thank you all to everyone who attended to support this amazing piece of history coming home after 700 years!

The Red Book of Ossory Exhibition is available to view at St Canice's Cathedral until July 2025.

Find out more on website here:

<https://www.stcanicescathedral.ie/red-book-of-ossory>

Saint John's at Chelmsford this weekend

The Saint John Singers are off to Chelmsford Cathedral this weekend 31 August/1 September.

Music will be:-

Saturday Evensong 5.15 pm

Preces and Responses - Radcliffe

Canticles - Bairstow

January 6, 2024

Anthem - Save us O Lord - Bairstow

Sunday Eucharist 11.15 am

Mass Setting - Schubert in G

Motet - Thy Perfect Love - Rutter

Sunday Evensong 3.30 pm

Preces and Responses - Radcliffe

Canticles - Stanford in C

Anthem - Like as the Hart - Howells

“If you're in the area it would be lovely to see you”

Heritage

St John's C of I Laganbank

Anyone any recollection on this?

This is **St John's Church of Ireland,**

It was on

Laganbank Road in Belfast, from 1852 to 1943.

It was bombed to the ground during the second world war. Copyright unknown.



January 6, 2024

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Union Theological College Belfast applications

The BA (Hons) Theology, validated and awarded by St. Mary's University, Twickenham, welcomes students from all backgrounds, and from any faith and none, to study Christian theology.

You will explore and engage with key areas of theology such as Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, Church History, and Practical Theology.

Learning and teaching will be delivered through a high-quality, research-informed curriculum using a combination of lectures, tutorials and independent study.

You will be equipped with a theological literacy that will enable you to understand and navigate the world in which you live, flourish as an individual, and make an impactful contribution to society.

Applications to begin the programme in September 2023 **close today** 31st August.

Follow the link below for details on Clearing and how to apply.

<https://www.union.ac.uk/programmes/ba-hons-theology-ba>

Methodist Newsletter

The September 2024 issue of the MNL is now published.

It includes the first of a new series of Bible Studies about the minor prophets by Hazel Loney and a very interesting interview with Kerry Scarlett.

Postgraduate and professional development programmes at Stranmillis University College

As part of the Department for the Economy's Skill Up programme for 24/25, the College is delighted to be able to offer a range of fully funded postgraduate and professional development programmes.

Application for the programmes, which are designed to support and enhance the skills of the Northern Ireland education and training workforce, is now open.

Available programmes include:

- Postgraduate Certificate (Education): Digital Skills
- Postgraduate Certificate (Education): STEM Education
- Postgraduate Certificate (Education): Leading Skills Development
- A range of standalone M-Level modules

Places are limited on each programme. For further information, and to apply, visit:

January 6, 2024

<https://www.stran.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/funded-skill-up-professional-and-postgraduate-courses/>

Christ Church Derry's 'First Wednesday' lunchtime recital



The award-winning pianist David Vesey will deliver the next in Christ Church Derry's 'First Wednesday' lunchtime recital series on Wednesday 4th September.

The gifted young musician graduated from the MTU Cork School of Music in 2021 with a Bachelor of Music degree, emerging with First Class Honours and as the highest placed student .

January 6, 2024

While in Cork, David won the Advanced Recital competition in the conservatoire and has since been a recipient of an MTU Arts Office Bursary to support his development.

He pursued his studies and his passion for music at the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) as an 1848 scholar, completing the Master's in Music Performance in June 2023 with Distinction.

David has won national prizes for his performances, among them the Audrey Chisholm award at the Birr Festival of Music in 2021. He has enjoyed success at Feis Ceoil, too, winning first prize in the John A. Piggott Cup (2021) and Hamilton Harty Cup (2022). In addition, David was awarded the prestigious Lucien and Maura Teissier Bursary for Irish pianists at RIAM in 2023.

David has performed internationally at venues such as the National Concert Hall (Dublin), International Sommerakademie at the Universität Mozarteum (Salzburg), and Saline Royale Academy (France).

His experiences as a traditional musician have shaped his journey as a pianist. He is a member of the Comhaltas National Folk Orchestra of Ireland and past member of the Comhaltas Concert Tours of Ireland and Britain. David has arranged works by Turlough O'Carolan for piano and has achieved many successes at the Fleadh Cheoil competitions.

As a boundary-crossing pianist, David promotes both genres through his performances, exploring the

January 6, 2024

relationships between these distinct yet interconnected traditions.

The audience at Christ Church Derry are in for a treat then, next Wednesday. The recital will begin at 1.10pm. Admission is free but donations are always appreciated.

In the media

'The murder of Nairac ate away at me... it led me into priesthood' - Belfast Telegraph

Ex-colleague tells how army Captain had returned for 'very particular job'.

One of Robert Nairac's undercover colleagues who served with him in Northern Ireland has recalled how his murder led him to become a priest, Andrew Madden writes.

Reverend William Burke also explained how a decision was made to send Nairac back to south Armagh for one last tour to undertake a "very particular" job.

Rev Burke, who worked undercover in west Belfast during the Troubles in the same clandestine unit as Nairac, was speaking to this newspaper as the search for the Army captain continued.

The dig on farmland in Co Louth began on Monday.

Capt Nairac, a 28-year-old Grenadier Guardsman, was abducted while working undercover in the Three Steps pub in Dromintee, south Armagh, in the early hours of May 15, 1977.

He was taken across the border and interrogated, before being shot by IRA man Liam Townson, who would later be convicted of Nairac's murder.

Rev Burke, who served in the Army for 25 years, explained how he was commissioned into a regiment called the Royal Irish Fusiliers, which later amalgamated with two other units and became the Royal Irish Rangers.

“I served in Northern Ireland in a number of capacities away from my regiment,” he explained.

“Later, Robert and I served in another organisation — and that's where I met him. We were there from 1973 to 1975.”

Asked about the nature of this “other organisation”, the former soldier said: “Well, it was a very specialist organisation. We weren't wearing uniforms, put it that way. We were in a special unit.

“Robert and I became good friends and we worked pretty closely together. Although his patch was south Armagh and my patch was west Belfast, we would meet once a week and go and brief our boss.”

January 6, 2024

Rev Burke said many people can't believe how English public schoolboys would be able to work undercover in Northern Ireland.

“But actually we did. I'm proof of it: I'm alive, you see,” he added.

Rev Burke, who, for an RTE documentary some years ago, visited the site where Capt Nairac was killed, described his friend as “charismatic, courageous and single-minded”, noting that an important aspect of his character was his Catholic faith.

He added that those in RUC Special Branch, with whom Nairac liaised, held him in high regard.

“They knew he was a practising Catholic and they respected him and trusted him implicitly,” he said.

“So, that's an important aspect we always forget, especially in view of all the allegations that are knocking around, which are complete rubbish, of course.

“He was quite single-minded and did his own thing. While he wasn't Irish, he had a great affection for Ireland.

“He wanted the situation in the north resolved, and he felt he could contribute in a major way. It's difficult to describe but, for him, there was obviously no dichotomy between being a Catholic and a servant of the Crown.”

In the years since his disappearance and murder, Nairac has been linked to various Troubles atrocities, from the

January 6, 2024

Miami Showband massacre to the Dublin-Monaghan bombings, but no evidence has been produced.

At one stage, the former lead investigator with the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains, Geoff Knupfer, examined the allegations and found that Nairac was not even present in Northern Ireland when many of the crimes took place.

On one occasion, he was actually in the company of Rev Burke in Warminster in England.

Rev Burke explained how Nairac came to be sent to Northern Ireland for what would be his final tour of duty.

“A decision had to be made to send one of us back for a very particular job in south Armagh,” he revealed.

“It was decided by our boss that, for complicated reasons, partly personal, because I was married and hadn't seen my family for 18 months, that Robert should be the person who should go.”

Rev Burke said he had an ominous but unexplainable feeling that his friend Robert Nairac would not return from his tour.

The circumstances of Nairac's murder still haunt Rev Burke and have led to his current vocation.

The catalyst was that Nairac knew he was about to die and asked to see a priest to give his final confession.

January 6, 2024

One of his abductors pretended to be a priest to try to elicit information from the soldier, who saw through the ruse. Nonetheless, “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned” were Nairac's final words.

“The fact that he started making his confession and was shot in the process — and I felt I should have been doing the job Robert was on — it all just sort of gnawed away at me over the years,” said Rev Burke, who left the Army a few years after Nairac's murder and joined the priesthood, now serving as a vicar in a parish in Oxfordshire.

He said it is “incredibly important” for his friend's remains to be found so that he can be given a Catholic funeral and Christian burial.

Poem for today

A Visit to Croom, 1745

By Michael Hartnett, Selected & New Poems (1994)

for Séamus Ó Cinnéide

The thatch dripped soot,
the sun was silver
because the sky
from ruts of mud to high blaze
was water.

Whitewashed walls were silver
limeflakes opened like scissored pages
nesting moss and golds of straw

January 6, 2024

and russet pools of soot;
windows small as rat holes
shone like frost-filled hoofprints
the door was chartered
by the tracery of vermin.
Five Gaelic faces stopped their talk,
turned from the red of fire
into a cloud of rush-light fumes,
scraped their pewter mugs
across the board and talked about the king.
I had walked a long time
in the mud to hear
an avalanche of turf fall down,
fourteen miles in straw-roped overcoat
passing for Irish all along the road,
now to hear a Gaelic court
talk broken English of an English king.
It was a long way
to come for nothing.

Speaking to the soul

Go

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

January 6, 2024

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

Posted early Monday to Saturday

Please share