

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Heat pump and solar panels

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Heat pump and solar panels

Drumcliffe Church, in Co. Sligo, is currently heated with an air-to-water heat pump and is likely to be one of few churches in Ireland using a heat pump as a heating source.

Looking upwards, the parish is keen to explore installing solar panels on the roof and use this to heat the underfloor electric heating system.

People and places

GoFundMe appeal by Lissadell Church restoration fund

Lissadell and Munninane Churches Select Vestry are raising funds towards the conservation of five stained glass windows (part-funded by The Heritage Council and Sligo Co Co) and also towards the repair of a large crack in the stone work to the north of the church (near to the back door).

Your support big or small would be greatly appreciated by the Select Vestry. A sincere thank you to those who have already given generously.

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Lissadell Church was consecrated on the 4th June 1858 by Bishop Beresford. The church seats 300 people but today has a small worshipping community. The building has also hosted events such as music concerts, theatre performances as well as flower/Christmas tree festivals.

Further information on the church history, significance and programme of conservation works is available on the GoFundMe Page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/.../k3k8u-lissadell-church...>

New audio guide launched at Derry's Long Tower church

A multi-lingual audio tour of the Long Tower church in Derry has been launched.

The new tour brings the rich treasury of this beloved church and its holy setting to a new generation of tourists, visitors and locals alike.

Vividly narrated by the Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown, the self-guided audio and video experience weds tech and talk in an engrossing 20 minutes.

Narrated in Irish, English and Italian, the audio tour provides step-by-step directions inviting you to linger over the paintings, artwork, architectural features and curiosities in this holy precinct.



Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, was founded in 1168 A.D. and stands on a hill on King's Island, which is the oldest part of Limerick. It is the oldest building in Limerick still in continuous daily use. It was built where the palace of the late King of Munster, Donal Mór O'Brien once stood. During the last eight centuries, it has witnessed invasions, sieges, battles, wars, famine, unrest and times of great peace. All are welcome to visit to attend a service, to pray, reflect, to take a tour or attend a choral concert or other special event.

Priced at just £2 per use, it is a very affordable way to deepen your appreciation of St Columba's Long Tower and the fascinating history of the ancient monastic grounds that encircle it.

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"I am delighted that this project is brought to this stage," Bishop McKeown said.

"St Columba's Church is perhaps the most ornate Catholic place of worship in the city. It is situated on an ancient historical site and bears witness to the long history of Christianity in Doire Cholmcille.

"I hope that this audio guide will enable many visitors to appreciate the quality of the art and the craftsmanship in the church – and to get a sense of the living faith community



Summer Organ Recitals 1.10pm

Friday 4th August

Arthur Greene
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Friday 11th August

David Grealy
Leeds Cathedral, UK

Friday 18th August

Aleksandr Nisse
St Mary's Pro Cathedral, Dublin

Friday 25th August

Matthew Owens
Belfast

Admission €10

in support of Cathedral Music

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that worships here. They are proud of their past and can face the future with confidence.”

Welcoming the new audio guide, Mayor of Derry and Strabane District Council, Cllr Patricia Logue, said: “This will be a fantastic resource for the Long Tower which is one of the city’s most historic and much-loved buildings.

“As well as having the opportunity to take in the beauty of the building itself, visitors can find out more about its rich history and the important role this sacred space has had in shaping local worship, culture and heritage over the centuries.”

Report courtesy Derry Now

Archbishop of Dublin expresses solidarity with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Following the storming of the Mar Elias Monastery in Haifa on Sunday and the statement by Bishop Doctor Sani Ibrahim Azar, Archbishop Michael Jackson has expressed his support.

He stated : “By virtue of our deep affection for the peoples of the Land of the Holy One and our association with Evangelical Church in many parts of the world we in Dublin and Glendalough wish to express our solidarity with what Bishop Doctor Sani Ibrahim Azar and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land has said following the recent storming of the Mar Elias Monastery in

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Haifa. Like millions of people worldwide I continue to pray for and call for the restoration of peaceful coexistence and harmonious relations between those who are tragically set against one another in the Land of the Holy One.”

Archbishop Eamon Martin to join pilgrim climb on Croagh Patrick

On Sunday, 30 July, Archbishop Eamon Martin will join with thousands of pilgrims of all ages in the annual pilgrimage to the summit of Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain, for Reek Sunday 2023.

Father Charlie McDonnell PP, Administrator of the local parish of Westport, Co Mayo, in the Archdiocese Tuam, welcomed the news that Archbishop Martin will celebrate Mass in Westport on 29 July, and on the summit of Croagh Patrick on Reek Sunday, and also that this year's Reek Sunday pilgrimage has been designated as one of the key initiatives to highlight the Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood, which is taking place across Ireland over 2023 - 2024.

Father McDonnell said: "I am delighted that for this Reek Sunday we will be joined by the successor of Saint Patrick, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, who will join us on our pilgrimage and celebrate Mass with Archbishop Francis Duffy in Westport, and also on the summit of Croagh Patrick."

Regarding the dedication of this year's Reek Sunday pilgrimage to vocations to the priesthood, Father McDonnell



said: "our Church needs vocations to the priesthood like never before. No doubt it is a challenging time to minister as a priest, but in my role I find that serving the people of God in today's counter-cultural environment is nothing short of a faith-enriching experience. I love being a priest and I draw spiritual strength from the people I meet every day on the journey of life. For this Reek Sunday, I invite any man who is discerning a vocation to the priesthood to avail of the opportunity to come to Croagh Patrick and pray, climb and reflect with other priests and members of the faithful. To help raise awareness of vocations, a special 'Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood' stand will be in place on Reek Sunday morning, at the base of Croagh Patrick, to offer information on the priesthood."

Father McDonnell continued: "In advance of the pilgrimage, I appeal to any priest in a position to minister the Sacraments over the Reek weekend, to contact me by email as soon as possible on frchaz@gmail.com."

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Father McDonnell also spoke of the importance of conserving the natural environment of Croagh Patrick for current and for future generations. He said: "Croagh Patrick is an iconic feature of the Mayo landscape and is of significant natural, cultural and spiritual importance. In recent years the Croagh Patrick Stakeholders' Group has achieved monumental success in helping to preserve and safeguard the mountain. However, we cannot do this alone. As the largest annual gathering on the Reek, it is essential that Reek Sunday pilgrims - and indeed all pilgrims - play their responsible part to sustain this holy site for future generations. The Church has actively engaged with other stakeholders to undertake the 'Sustainable Access and Habitat Restoration Project' to provide a robust path for access, and to restore the eroded parts of the mountain. In this regard we are committed to minimising the impact of the pilgrimage on the drinking water of the mountain streams, on the local community and on other users of the mountain.

To help us to achieve these aims, we ask of each pilgrim to adhere to the following best practice guidance:



- If you are traveling by car, car-pool if you can, park responsibly and follow the instructions of stewards on the day.
- While climbing, stay on the defined path on the mountain (where in place) and do not encroach on the adjoining habitat which may be in the process of restoration.
- Be respectful to the mountain streams which provide drinking water to the local community.
- Support our 'Leave No Trace' principle by not discarding litter on the mountain and by appropriately disposing of any that you might come across; and, as dogs are not permitted on the mountain, please do not bring dogs to Croagh Patrick. I ask all dog owners to respect this requirement."

From 8.00am on Reek Sunday, Mass will be celebrated on the hour outside of the chapel on the summit of Croagh Patrick. The full schedule for the 2023 annual pilgrimage, which takes place from Garland Friday 28 July, to Reek Sunday 30 July, is set out at -

[\[https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/47672\]](https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/47672)

News reports

King and Queen mark Brecon Cathedral centenary on first Welsh trip since coronation

The King and Queen have visited Brecon Cathedral to mark its centenary as the diocese's mother church—

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their first official engagement in Wales since the coronation.

The monarchs were greeted by pupils of Priory Church in Wales Priory School, before meeting congregants and parishioners involved in the running of the cathedral.

Attendees included representatives from The Fathom Trust, Brecon Mind and Friends of Brecon Cathedral, which His Majesty was Patron of as Prince of Wales.

The cathedral is currently undergoing refurbishment in order to improve its accessibility – many of those working on this project were also present for the royal visit.

Their majesties listened to a short programme of music performed by the winner of the Young Singer Award, Erin Thomas, who was performing as part of the Brecon Choir Festival, which opened on the same day as the visit.

Brecon Cathedral is part of the Diocese of Swansea, and is overseen by the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon.

Although the cathedral is marking 100 years at the helm of the diocese, its history stretches back much further. Although there is no remaining trace, it's believed a Celtic church previously stood on the site before a new church – dedicated to St John – was built around the time of the Norman conquest.

The Grade-I building was then entirely repaired and renewed in the 1800s.

Archbishop of Canterbury thrilled by Pope's ecumenical prayer vigil

Archbishop Justin Welby commented, "I'm thrilled that Pope Francis is inviting churches from around the world to an ecumenical prayer vigil 'Gathering Together', taking place on the 30th September in Rome.

"We shouldn't underestimate the impact we can have as Christians on the rest of the world. As a visible sign of unity, this ecumenical prayer vigil is an opportunity for all of us to come together and inspire change".

Christians urged to make ethical decisions over where to bank

Christians are being urged to consider where banks invest their money.

It comes after Christian Aid announced it's cutting ties with Barclays over the bank's investments in the oil and gas industries. The bank is known to be one of Europe's leading funders of fossil fuels.

Sarah Edwards from Just Money Movement said people should make informed choices about where to keep their money :

"I think it's a really interesting story. I think charities, companies, churches, and individuals are all having to think

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now more about what our money is doing, and the kind of world that our money is shaping. I think that's a really positive step. And we're really pleased that Christian Aid have done this.

“If you look at the clout that money has - money shapes the kind of world we want to see. Jesus spoke so much about money in the Bible. At the Just Money Movement, we really want individuals and charities and churches to think about where we're banking, because it can make such a big difference. Banks don't just sit on our money when we deposit it in a current account or a savings account, they invest it, and they lend it, and they use it in different ways. Some of those are ways that we might not be happy with and we need to learn about that and investigate that. It's really pleasing that Christian Aid has done that and made a change.

“It's just more and more important that we think about our relationship to money and the ethical concerns around that, as it shapes the world that we see around us.”

A spokesperson for Barclays said :“As one of the first banks to set an ambition to become net zero by 2050, we are clear that addressing climate change is an urgent and complex challenge. We are using our entire franchise to support new green technologies and infrastructure projects that will build up low-carbon capacity and capability, having provided over £87bn of green finance since 2018.”

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In the media

'Lessons need to be learnt' as NI Covid costs reach £7.79bn

BELFAST TELEGRAPH - The cost of responding to the pandemic in Northern Ireland is estimated to have reached more than £7.79bn, a new Audit Office report has found.

It said lessons needed to be learnt from the spending to ...

It said lessons needed to be learnt from the spending to ensure that Stormont departments are well placed to deal with similar situations in the future.

Auditor general, Dorinnia Carville, has published the third in a series of overview reports summarising the Executive's expenditure in response to the public health emergency. It said recent estimates of the total cost of Government Covid-19 measures range from £310bn billion to £410bn. In Northern Ireland, the total estimated cost is more than £7.79bn.

The report said that at the end of March, the spend by government departments here on measures to combat the impact of the pandemic was estimated to be £4.94bn. The other £2.85bn was spent on national schemes which applied to Northern Ireland, including an estimated £1.72bn covering the cost of 287,100 Northern Ireland employments furloughed by September 30, 2021.



EU still poised to block 51% of animal medicines from Northern Ireland in 2026, warns British Veterinary Association

NEWS LETTER - Northern Ireland is facing a potential crisis in public health and the agri-food economy in 2025 when EU rules are once again poised to block 51% of veterinary medicines coming in from GB, the British Veterinary Association has warned.

The BVA has warned that despite reforms to GB-NI trade outlined in the Windsor Framework (WF), the difficulty remains unresolved and still poses a potentially serious risk to public health, food supplies, animal welfare and trade. The government has told the News Letter that it is working on a solution.

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The news comes after the NI Protocol sub-committee of the House of Lords published the results of its inquiry into the impact of the UK-EU deal this week. The report stated that while the WF had reduced some red-tape on trade compared to the Protocol, serious problems remain.

In their report, the peers expressed concern that a permanent solution to the movement of veterinary medicines from Great Britain to NI had not been achieved. Those medicines only continue to flow freely into NI from GB due to a grace period on EU import restrictions that is set to run out at the end of 2025.

The committee noted the warnings it had received from industry representatives that, without a permanent solution, the supply of more than 50 per cent of veterinary medicines to Northern Ireland may be discontinued, posing a risk both to animal and human health, and to agri-food supply chains.

Responding to the report, the BVA told the News Letter that when the current three year grace period on import restrictions granted by the EU expires in 2025, all the same significant public health risks to NI the BVA warned about in December would arise once again.

MORE - [<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/2023/07/26/windsor-framework-eu-still-poised-to-block-51-of-animal-medicines-from-northern-ireland-in-2025-warns-british-veterinary-association/content.html>]

'Young people have been let down': Former Camhs user echoes report's findings

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IRISH EXAMINER -A report critical of the supports offered to children’s mental health “validates our lived experiences”, a young woman who previously accessed these services said.

Tammy Donaghy was speaking during the launch of a report into the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (Camhs) by the Mental Health Commission. More - [<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41192101.html>]

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



How would you spend a day with your favourite Bible person?

Click through to the Bible Society’s website, share your answer with us, and you could be featured in their booklet coming out this autumn: <https://cstu.io/4a8234>

Perspective

Trevor Ringland: Across this Island we need to challenge our hatreds better and those who continue to promote them

The government's recent Legacy Bill understandably caused anger, because it made it clear that justice would be difficult to deliver for many victims of the Troubles.

I believe we should all make an effort to engage with the proposals though. They merely reflect aspects of the 'peace process' that were never formally acknowledged, but we already knew existed.

In fact, in the majority of cases, the proposals offer honesty about what is achievable, as well as attempting to restore some balance to the way we deal with legacy.

For example, there are not a relatively small number of inquests outstanding as is sometimes asserted, but over 1400.

These cases, including those involving the deaths of over 700 members of the security forces, all deserve the scrutiny currently being afforded to too few deaths.

The current structure simply could not cope with this workload, and therefore it cannot provide a process that is even remotely fair. The same is true for investigations by the Police Ombudsman's office.

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The most controversial of the government's proposals relates to immunity from prosecution. Perhaps these measures would be more morally and legally acceptable, if, as well as the current stipulations, to qualify when a crime had been committed, an unconditional apology was required acknowledging that the action was wrong and unjustified.

In addition, the significant number of civil actions aimed at the state have effectively become a state-funded Troubles compensation fund, but available only to those injured by the security forces. This is grossly unfair, given that 90% of deaths and injuries were caused by paramilitaries and none of these were justified or understandable.

Perhaps, the money that this costs could be invested in a more equitable scheme of compensation or in promoting reconciliation rather than deepening divisions. The Republic of Ireland could contribute to this fund too, given that it has drawn a line under legacy issues since 1998, including some very questionable aspects of the role it played in our conflict, and yet is so quick to condemn the actions of others.

Across this Island we need to challenge our hatreds better and those who continue to promote them!

I frequently quote the poet, Michael Longley, and his poem about our past, 'Ceasefire'. He captured powerfully the morally troubling compromises of our peace process with the lines, "I get down on my knees and do what must be done... And kiss Achilles' hand, the killer of my son."

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The protagonist, King Priam, symbolises victims, but you could also cast him as the whole of Northern Irish society, having to accept that the people who destroyed our peace could cast themselves as peacemakers.

We might have expected more humility and grace from the perpetrators of violence and those who inspired it, in return for those messy and horrible compromises.

That hasn't come to pass and while our society is in a much better place than in 1998 it is incumbent on all of us to try to make more progress in the next 25 years, including stopping an unbalanced legacy process from being used to refight and distort the battles of the past and as a consequence attempt to chain our future to it.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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