

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Antrim coast road

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Image of the day

Packed with scenery, historical sites and colourful coastal villages, the 313km/195-mile Antrim Coast Road packs a punch.

[<https://www.theirishroadtrip.com/the-causeway-costal-route/>]

People and places



Community and Volunteer Award for parishioner of St Mary's Church Tipperary

Congratulations to parishioner Jean Nelson on receiving the "Community Activist of the year" award at the first Knockanrawley Community & Volunteer Awards held earlier today. Jean was presented her award by Tipperary actress Rachel Pilkington.

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Happy volunteers of Magheracross Parish

A big thanks was given this week to a team of happy volunteers who on Monday night moved scaffolding into the church in preparation for the scaffold builders and painters arriving. Worship will be in the church at the usual times this Sunday and then to the Archdale Hall during August.

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Scout Association Ireland en route to the World Jamboree in Korea

£10,000 grant to Dromara Parish

Dromara Parish has received a grant of £10,000 towards the construction of a new disabled toilet facility in the church hall.

Speaking after news of the award, the rector of Dromara and Garvagh, Revd George Okikiolu said:

“We are thankful to God and grateful to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council for this generous grant. The new facility will be of great benefit to the many local groups using



our church hall every week and so enhance our ministry and outreach. It is also a project that helps the Parish to be fully compliant with the requirements around health and safety and safeguarding.”

‘God goes slowly because he is love. If he was not love he would have gone much faster’ - Japanese theologian Kosuke Koyama



Visitors to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

“We meet our visitors and remind ourselves that we are a house of prayer for all nations.

“Today we spoke to Rowena and Andy. Originally from The Philippines but have called Seattle

Washington their home for the last 45 years. They visit Dublin as part of a cruise and joked how they find Ireland just like home. Green and rainy. They think Irish people are very friendly and have enjoyed the music and singing they have seen. They say they have been to many cathedrals all around the world and Saint Patrick's is one of the best they have ever seen”.

How would you spend a day with your favourite Bible person? Click through to this website, share your answer with them, and you could be featured in their booklet coming out this autumn: <https://cstu.io/4a8234>

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Irish Methodists working visit to Presiding Bishop of Methodist Church in Ghana

Representatives from the North Eastern District of the Methodist Church Ireland have paid a working visit to the



Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church Ghana- Most Rev Dr Paul Bofo. Judith Weir presented the bishop with a Celtic cross and Pat Jamison presented an Irish coaster. This took place at the Wesley House - Accra.

Heritage Week in Dublin and Glendalough Churches

Churches in Dublin and Glendalough are encouraged to open their doors for Heritage Week 2023 as part of the United Dioceses' 'Open Church' initiative. Heritage Week 2023 runs from August 12 to 20.

Every church in the dioceses will be invited to open their doors and welcome local people, pilgrims and visitors to discover the treasures that are often on their doorsteps. This is a way of inviting the public to explore the dioceses' rich and fascinating architectural, and cultural history. Open Church is also an opportunity to reach and engage with

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people who might have lived in the area for years, have walked past every day and have never been inside. It seeks to give confidence to visitors, so that they can enter a church, and discover that it is both a surprising and an interesting place to visit.

Launching 'Open Church', Archbishop Michael Jackson said: "The Open Church initiative is one that I wholeheartedly commend. We all too often take our churches for granted, but frequently they are repositories of local history and community engagement. Open Church is a warm hearted invitation to come and see and to come and enjoy".

Being open outside of worship and planned events does not mean that you must do lots of additional activities or dramatically change your place of worship. There are some simple things you could consider to help encourage more people to visit and engage with the building. In-person events during Heritage Week may consist of walking tours, lectures, film screenings, exhibitions, craft workshops or other interactive activities. Digital project formats may vary from online talks or exhibitions, to videos, podcasts, presentations or blogs.

Once you have a clear idea of the range of interesting features, stories and connections your place of worship may have,

this can help you start thinking about how this information could be presented to visitors, and importantly how you can use it to encourage people to visit. Events and digital projects can now be uploaded via the Heritage Week's Organisers' Portal on www.heritageweek.ie.

St. Guaire's
Aghadowey

81 Ardreagh Road Aghadowey Coleraine BT51 4DW

Flower Festival

THEME:

"From Eden to Paradise"

Flowers by Lena Rose (aka Mark Allen)

SEPT 8th-10th

Friday 10am - 8pm (Opening Service 11am)

Saturday 10am - 6pm

Sunday 12pm - 5pm

Sunday Services 11am & 6pm

For Group Bookings or Information

Tel: 07725 908 117 or Email: louisecrawfordmccafferty@yahoo.com
or robertjohn.wilson@icloud.com

ALL PROCEEDS GOING TOWARDS THE TOWER RESTORATION FUND

EVERYONE WELCOME

**The Church of Ireland Parish of Lower
Badoney with Greenan presents**

A Festival of Flowers

“The Church’s One Foundation”

**in Lower Badoney Parish Church
Friday 25th to Monday 28th August 2023**

Opening hours:

Friday 25th August 7.00pm-9.00pm

***(opening ceremony at 7.00pm with
guest speaker, Rt Rev Andrew Forster,
Bishop of Derry & Raphoe)***

Saturday 26th August 10.00am-08.00pm

Sunday 27th August 12.30pm-08.00pm

Monday 28th August 10.00am-06.00pm

Refreshments served in Church Hall

**Come along to view the wonderful floral arrangements
throughout this beautiful Church**

All proceeds towards the New Church Hall Fund

**Table Top & Car
Boot Sale**

DRUMMAUL PARISH HALL
CHURCH ROAD
RANDALSTOWN



Saturday 29th July 10am - 2pm

£10 PER TABLE (BRIC-A-BRAC, CRAFTS ETC)
£5 PER CAR - FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Indoor tables must be booked in advance Contact Iris to book 07759205382	Set up from 9am Refreshments Available! (£2 per person)
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Friends and Relatives Of Thompson House Hospital

Charity Quiz Night and Raffle

*To raise funds for specialised therapy room and
Patients Mural Art works for the Courtyard Garden*

Dunmurry Golf Club

Thursday 28th September 2023

7pm for 7:30pm start

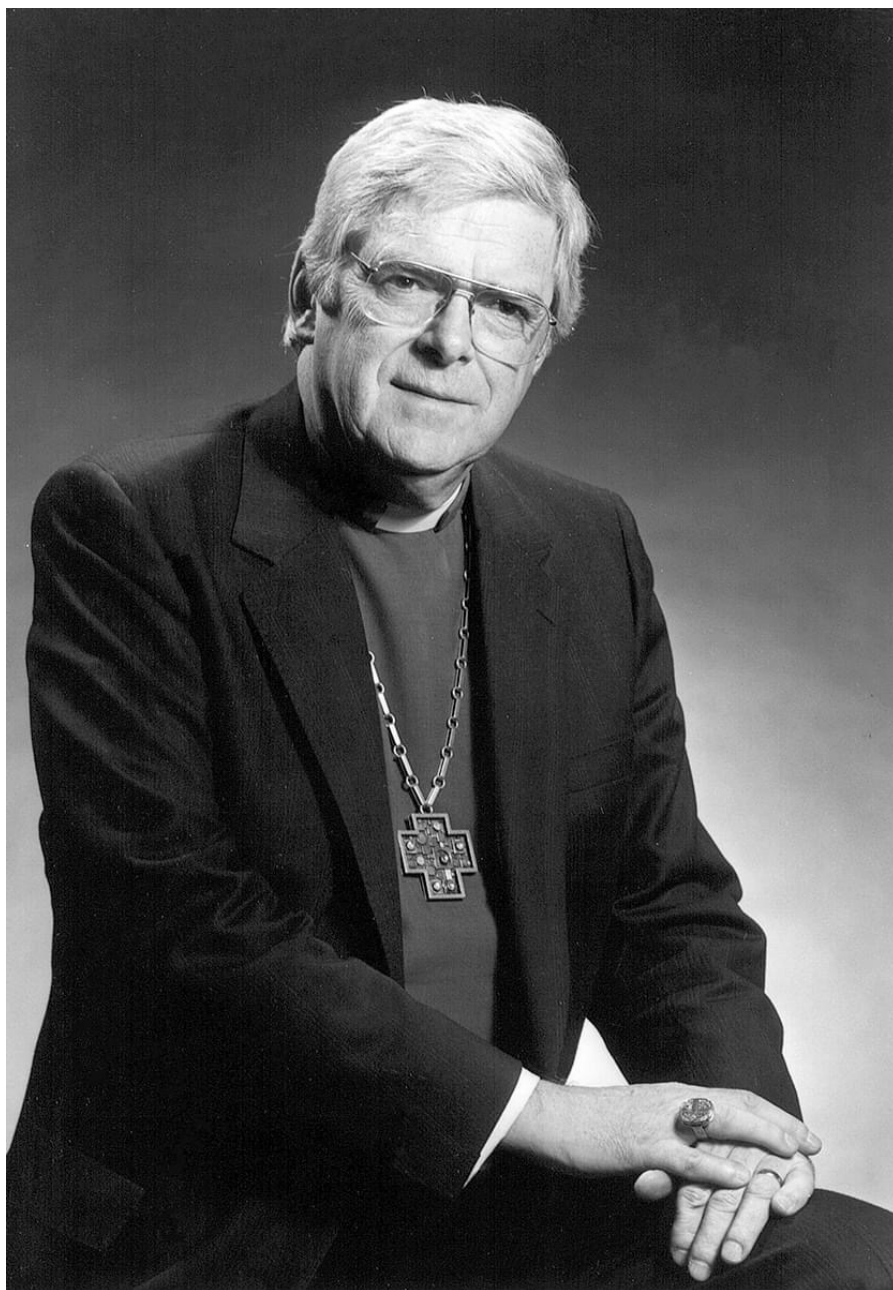
Cost £10 per person (includes raffle tickets) payable on the night

To book a seat please phone, text or email

Carol on 028 92665646 or carol.hamill@setrust.hscni.net

A wheelchair lift is available to access the first floor

Light snacks and drinks will be available from the Club.



News reports

Former Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

**The Most
Reverend
Michael
Geoffrey Peers,**
who served as
Primate of the

Anglican Church of Canada from 1986 to 2004, died peacefully this week in Toronto, just four days short of his 89th birthday.

Much will be said about him and his impact on the life of the Church in the coming days, but at this time the church asks for prayers for Archbishop Peers' family and friends as they mourn. May they be comforted in this time of grief, and may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

In the media

Dublin funding for students in NI to avail of EU programme hailed

Belfast Telegraph - News the Irish government is paying for students from this side of the border to continue to go on Erasmus+ international study and work trips following Brexit has been welcomed.

The Republic's further and higher education minister, Simon Harris, has allocated €2m in funding for this year, and the support will stay in place indefinitely.

It is the second major initiative announced this week where Dublin is filling funding gaps in Northern Ireland higher education that have resulted, directly or indirectly, from Brexit.

Erasmus+ is an EU programme, and students in the UK lost access to it as a result of Brexit.

The SDLP's Sinead McLaughlin said after the Brexit referendum there was serious concern about the impact leaving the EU would have on students here wishing to take part in Erasmus+ studies.

“Young people here have been afforded amazing opportunities to work, study and live abroad for many



Windsor Framework - Sir Jeffrey Donaldson has said he expects to receive a “definitive response” from the UK Government over issues of concern he has raised about the Windsor Framework in the near future. - Belfast Telegraph

decades and it was unthinkable that would be robbed away from them,” Ms McLaughlin added.

“The Irish Government's decision to step up and provide this funding will open a wealth of opportunities for a new generation of young people across the North.

“The experience of studying and living abroad brings huge benefits to young people.

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“It helps them develop new skills and build new connections with peers from across Europe, and all while growing their intercultural understanding and awareness.”

In 2020, the Irish Government committed to ensuring students in Northern Ireland could continue to avail of the programme.

Yesterday's funding announcement fulfils that pledge

DUP MP Sammy Wilson welcomes Irish Government £1.7m for Erasmus in Northern Ireland - but questions motives behind donation

News Letter - The £1.7m the Irish government has donated to Northern Ireland students to study internationally is welcome - despite the fact that it comes with ulterior motives, DUP MP Sammy Wilson has said...

...DUP MP and ex-Stormont Finance Minister Sammy Wilson also welcomed the donation – but with qualifications.

“We welcome money from any part of the world so if they want to give us money that is up to themselves. It is moving money into the United Kingdom for the benefit of students in Northern Ireland and providing they don’t attach any strings it is welcome.

“I have no doubt that they have got ulterior motives and I think you have always got to bear that in mind. But don’t forget, no matter how much they put into Northern Ireland, any crumbs from Dublin’s table will never be able to replace

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the feast that we get from Westminster – currently £12bn a year.”

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/2023/07/27/dup-mp-sammy-wilson-welcomes-irish-government-1-7m-for-erasmus-in-northern-ireland-but-questions-motives-behind-donation/content.html>



IAG, which owns Aer Lingus and BA, made a record operating profit of £1.1bn in the first half of 2023. Revenue reached €13.6bn (£11.7bn), an increase of nearly 45 per cent year-on-year. Irish News

Vicar's spiritual abuse went on for decades despite complaints to his bishop, review finds

Church Times - Spiritual abuse was able to go unchecked in a parish in the diocese of Oxford for almost 20 years, owing to inaction at the parish and diocesan level, a lessons-learnt review has concluded.

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The report, published on Friday, examines how the Revd Michael Hall, Vicar of St Margaret's, Tylers Green, in Buckinghamshire, from 1981 to 2000, was able to abuse members of the congregation physically and emotionally without official censure.

An investigation began in 2020, after a former member of the congregation took his own life, but it did not conclude until after Hall's death, at the age of 88, in June 2021 (News, 14 April 2022).

Some witnesses described his ministry as akin to a cult, ruled by Hall's word. Parishioners were described as frightened to leave because Hall told them that, if they did, they would face litigation, ostracism, and damnation.

"He made parishioners want to please him and to fear his rejection. In this way, Reverend Hall groomed parishioners and made them vulnerable through spiritual abuse," the reviewers, Elaine and Patrick Hopkinson, write.

[<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2023/28-july/news/uk/vicar-s-spiritual-abuse-went-on-for-decades-despite-complaints-to-his-bishop-review-finds>]

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Church Bookshop Summer Sale

Remember to pick up a bargain in the big Summer Sale. Great savings of up to 80% on hundreds of books!

<https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/features/summer-sale>

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Host a Big Quiz Night for Tear Fund

Hundreds of churches. Thousands of people. One Big Quiz.

Join hundreds of churches across the UK all taking part in the ultimate quiz night.

Invite your friends, family and church to join you for an epic evening of poverty-beating, community-building fun. Every pound you raise from your Big Quiz Night will help empower people to lift themselves out of poverty

Tear Fund provide everything you need to make your quiz a big hit - including the all-important quiz questions themselves. Sign up today and you'll receive updates and all the resources you need.

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/big-quiz-night>

Christian Theology in Outline

Through MCI's partnership with Cliff College – this autumn there is a NEW course available through the suite of Mission and Ministry Development Units: Christian Theology in Outline

To find out more and register your place, visit:
bit.ly/3zWnNYj

Apply by 1st September 2023. Applicants from the Methodist Church in Ireland should email the Ministries Team for details of bursaries available to assist with the Unit fees.

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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
