

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Public realm scheme
at Derry church**

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Public realm scheme at Derry church



Politicians from the four main parties on Derry City and Strabane District Council attended the official launch, of a new public realm scheme at All Saints' Church, Clooney by the Mayor, Cllr Patricia Logue.

Congratulating the various partners, the Mayor also thanked the Department for Communities, without whose funding — she said — the scheme would not have been possible.

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The landscaping project — which was developed in partnership by the church, the local community and the



Mayor, Cllr Patricia Logue

Council — allows for public access to part of the church site, in which one of the city's historical treasures, the Clooney Cannon (a relic of the Crimean War'), is displayed.

The idea for the scheme arose from a conversation between the DUP peer, Lord Hay, and the chairman of Bonds Street Community Association, Lloyd Magee, six or seven years ago. The pair contacted the Rector of All Saints', Clooney, Rev Canon David McBeth, Derry City and Strabane District Council's Regeneration Manager, Tony Monaghan, and Shona Campbell from the Council's Regeneration Section, and between them the project was brought to fruition.



Lord Hay

The result is a new paved area on Clooney Terrace, and an attractive display space open to passers-by, which allows them to see and touch the Crimean War cannon.

Speaking at the event in All Saints Church, Canon McBeth said the cannon was a war 'treasure', but it also reminded people of the sadness and destruction that war brings. "We see that clearly now," he said, "on our screens, in the conflict between Palestine and Israel, and the war in Ukraine. We see that in the conflict here, in our own community. But we want this [space] to be a place where people can come together, and a sit together, and show the love of Christ to one another, and help and support one another."



Mr Magee spoke to those present about the evolution of the project, from the idea's initial conception right through to its launch.

Mr Monaghan gave a short and informative presentation about the project's development, including the various problems it had to overcome, such as the relocation of an electricity sub-station and, of course, the recent Covid pandemic.

The launch concluded with a talk by local historian Mark Lusby about the significance of the site on which the church itself was built.

After photographs, clergy, politicians, Council officials and members of the local community enjoyed a light lunch together in the church building.

People and places



Various Peregrinations

It is indeed difficult to keep up with the travels of the Bishop of Tuam, Limerick etc. Here are a couple of recent postings by a parish and a rector. As they may say, savour the flavour.

Day 5 and the Peregrinations took Bishop Michael to Borrisokane at 10am; Ballingarry at 11am; Cloughjordan at noon, where the pupils from the National School joined in; Templeharry at 13.15pm and Borrisafarney at 2.15. Thanks

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to everyone who participated today! On to Shrinrone next...
Not quite -

Canon Arthur Minion posted - "Well done to all, from Birr Group of Parishes, who gave so generously to the Bishop's peregrinations in aid of empowering women through literacy in Madagascar and Burundi. In donations through our four cheques and in the bucket today at our churches, it all came to €3987-70. Again, well done to all and Thank You".

To read more and to support this cause involving Feed the Minds. Mothers' Union .Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal see -

tlk.ie/new-lamps-being-lit

tlk.ie/donate/



Cardinal Nicholls - Last week faith leaders from different parts of the land gathered to meet King Charles in the Library at Lambeth Palace to mark Inter Faith Week.



Special night of music at Clonard Monastery for SVP

SVP Ireland launched their annual regional appeal. Canon Kevin Graham DL represented HM Lord Lieutenant and brought her good wishes to this very special charity. Thanks to Pauline Brown, Mary Waide and great contributing artists.

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Welcome to Down & Connor Schola Cantorum



Welcome to six new members to the Schola Cantorum for Sunday Mass. Congratulations to James, Rory, Emmett, Riley, Aodhan and Conor. Wishing them many happy years of singing at Saint Peter's Cathedral, Belfast.

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Archbishop John McDowell pays tribute to Bishop Tony Farquhar

It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of Bishop Tony Farquhar, priest, sportsman, ecumenist and raconteur, says Archbishop John McDowell in a tribute.

I first met Tony in 1974 when he was an assistant Catholic Chaplain in Queen's University, Belfast. The Catholic Chaplaincy had just been rebuilt and was at that time the last word in modernity and convenience. On top of its no doubt vibrant spiritual life the Chaplaincy ran a host of social activities. Some were presided over by the scholarly Chaplain and distinguished historian Fr Ambrose McCauley and some by the young gregarious and sports loving Fr Tony Farquhar. For many from the Protestant tradition these first encounters with Catholic faith and society formed in us nothing but memories of warmth and hospitality.

Tony loved most sports but was particularly knowledgeable about soccer and became a sort of unofficial chaplain to the Queen's and Queen's Graduate teams. With a soft spot for the unglamorous underdog he maintained a particular fondness for Dundela FC and would be found often on the terraces of The Hen Run in East Belfast.

It was my privilege and pleasure to encounter Tony again nearly fifty years later, when I represented the Church of Ireland on the Irish Council of Churches and at meetings between members of the Church of Ireland House of

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Bishops and the Irish Episcopal Conference. In many ways Tony was a pioneer of the now fashionable 'receptive ecumenism' avant la lettre. For Tony authentic ecumenism was the sharing of memory and experience drawing on an underlying unspoken and indefinable communion which exists for those resting on the gift by the baptismal covenant. Ecumenical encounter was rather like showing a friend family photographs in the faith that they will share the feelings of warmth and affection of other families as well as their own.

Tony was a great encourager and I never left his presence without feeling slightly the better and wiser for it. A man of God and a man of the people, he will be greatly mourned and greatly given thanks for by many people, not least within the family of the Church of Ireland.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís

Bishop Farquhar enabled the Republic of Ireland soccer team to meet the Pope at the Vatican

Born in the Belfast parish of Holy Rosary in September 1940, Bishop Farquhar studied at St Malachy's College and Queen's, as well as theological studies at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

He was ordained as a priest in March 1965, serving in a variety of roles before he was ordained as an Auxiliary



Northern Ireland Milk Cup Chaplains for 25+ years - Bishop Tony and Very Rev Houston McKelvey with some notable supporters led by Sir Alex Ferguson

Bishop of Down and Connor in 1983. He retired in December 2015. He was instrumental in securing the Republic of Ireland team an audience with the Pope at the Vatican in 1990.

Bishop Farquhar recalled in a 2005 interview: “I watched the Ireland versus Romania match, with the famous 5-4 penalties win, in the Irish College in Rome on the Monday night.

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“A phone call came through from the team on Tuesday morning to ask if there was any way they could meet the Pope.

“Archbishop Brady of Armagh was rector of the Irish College in Rome at the time, so, he and myself went over to the Vatican and just knocked on all of the doors we could think of.”

Bishop Farquhar was close friends with Harry Gregg, getting to know the ex-Manchester United star through the SuperCupNI youth tournament, which he attended each summer.

Following Gregg's death in February 2020, Bishop Farquhar revealed how he borrowed a line from the goalkeeper's acceptance speech when he was awarded an honorary



doctorate by Ulster University some years ago, which he would then use in homilies to children in his diocese on their confirmation days.

In the media

Injustice of Darkley murders 'still raw' 40 years on, says victim's son - Belfast Telegraph

The son of a church elder killed by republican terrorists said he “harbours no bitterness”, but feels a sense of injustice, Rebecca Black writes

Three people were killed and seven injured when gunmen attacked the Mountain Lodge Pentecostal Church, near Darkley in Co Armagh, on November 20, 1983.

The atrocity was claimed by the 'Catholic Reaction Force' but later reports linked the INLA to the shootings.

Church elders Harold Browne (59), Victor Cunningham (39) and David Wilson (44) were killed in the attack, which has been described as among the most chilling in Northern Ireland's troubled past.

The church held a service on Sunday ahead of the 40th anniversary.

Mr Browne's son, David, said the men “didn't stand a chance”.

“Dad was a Christian and upright man and took his role as an elder within the church seriously, he was well respected throughout the Mountain Lodge community of people but much beyond this,” he said.

“Dad didn't stand a chance that fateful night, his instinct was to try and protect others from harm and injury but in doing so, he himself paid with his life.”
He said 40 years later it is still raw for him.

“Forty years is seen by some as a long time, you'll hear that phrase, lots of water under the bridge. For me there remains stagnant water under the bridge which cannot flow,” he said.
“I do not harbour bitterness, hate or resentment for what happened but I do have strong feelings of injustice, a wonderful man, my earthly father was taken away from us, and that was no-one's right.

“Today it is still raw.

“I remember a special man who lived life well, who lived to serve others, but most importantly for him, he lived his life by the values set down by his heavenly father.”
Kenny Donaldson from the victims' group SEFF described the attack as “amongst the most chilling of the years of the years of the terrorist campaign”.

“Attacking Christian people whilst they praised God was and remains a particularly dark act designed to terrorise.

“Those impacted by the Mountain Lodge attack have refrained from using ugly language over the years, the

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leadership they have quietly given should not be easily discounted. Our thoughts, prayers and support remains with the families.”

Welby sorry for likening LGBT campaigner to militia leader - Daily Telegraph

The Archbishop of Canterbury has apologised to a Christian LGBT+ campaigner after comparing her to the leader of a militia, The Daily Telegraph can disclose, Ewan Somerville writes.

Justin Welby held an “intense” 90-minute meeting at Lambeth Palace earlier this month with campaigners involved in the Church of England’s divisive introduction of blessings for gay couples.

But it descended into acrimony as Jayne Ozanne, a gay evangelical Christian who (yesterday) quit the Church’s governing body, said she “left the meeting in floods of tears” after the Archbishop’s speech “opened with a parallel – he wanted to reiterate that we are not a problem; he had dealt with militia leaders who had killed tens of thousands of people and if they were not a problem, of course we wouldn’t be either”.

Ms Ozanne, a former government LGBT adviser, said the remark, at the end of the meeting on Nov 3, left her “disgusted, shocked and hurt” and she “called him out” to which “he responded very angrily”.

The Archbishop sent a handwritten note of apology that evening to Ms Ozanne after the meeting with around 40 people, many of whom were LGBT+, telling her that he had meant to say that if someone as “evil” as a militia leader could find grace, it is “absurd” for people to suggest that gay people cannot.

A Lambeth Palace source told The Telegraph that the Archbishop recognised “it was an inappropriate analogy and that it had been heard differently from how it was intended”.

The furore comes just two days after the biannual gathering of bishops, clergy and laymen met to discuss implementing blessings, titled Live, Loving and Faith, in special ceremonies for gay couples.

In her first interview since quitting, the Synod member of 13 years told The Telegraph: “There is a callous disregard for the safety of LGBT people, particularly young LGBT people growing up in conservative churches.

“We heard the testimonies of people in Synod this week, we saw the rhetoric from conservative leaders, but I have heard hundreds if not thousands of stories of people who have been abused by the Church and the Church does not want to engage with that abuse, which I find itself abusive.”

A Lambeth Palace spokesman said: “The Archbishop listened carefully during an intense meeting in which many passionately held views and painful experiences were shared”.

Poem for today



Epic by Patrick Kavanagh

I have lived in important places, times
When great events were decided, who owned
That half a rood of rock, a no-man's land
Surrounded by our pitchfork-armed claims.
I heard the Duffys shouting "Damn your soul!"
And old McCabe stripped to the waist, seen
Step the plot defying blue cast-steel -
"Here is the march along these iron stones."
That was the year of the Munich bother. Which

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Was more important? I inclined
To lose my faith in Ballyrush and Gortin
Till Homer's ghost came whispering to my mind.
He said: I made the Iliad from such
A local row. Gods make their own importance.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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