

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Thankful for God's Habitat

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Thankful for God's Habitat

The children of All Saints Mullingar gathered to remember God's Habitat as described in the first chapter of Genesis.

The large congregation along with all the animals had a wonderful celebration and the three ponies along with the many dogs, rabbits and other animals all took part in a special parade of blessing.

The service was led by a number of the children.



The service was an opportunity to thank God for His habitat. We need to all play our part in minding it.

People and places

Leitrim clergy final service

Two Leitrim clergy are set to lead their final church service after nine years in popular parish

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The Reverend Canon Linda Frost and Reverend Steve Frost will lead their final service on Sunday November 26 in St Mary's Church of Ireland on Lower Main Street, Mohill at 11am.

Bishop Ferran of Glenfield will give the farewell sermon.



Great News - The Poor Clares in Galway have just published an updated 10th anniversary edition of their number 1 best-selling book *Calm the Soul*.

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SOULS OF OUR SHOES EXHIBITION

ST. SAVIOURS CHURCH, ARKLOW

Friday 24th – Monday 27th November 2023



This unique and poignant exhibition, showcasing shoes that speak on behalf of victims of domestic abuse and violence, will open on **Friday 24th November 2023** at **7.30pm** in **St. Saviour's Church.**

OPENING TIMES

The exhibition opens on Friday 24th November 2023 at 7.30pm
Opening led by the clergy from Arklow Churches Together

Saturday 25th November 10am – 4pm

Sunday 26th November 2pm to 6pm

Speaker at 11.30am service in St. Saviour's – Lesley Bayley, survivor of domestic abuse

Monday 27th November 10am to 4pm.

There will be tea/coffee & traybakes available in the church hall beside the church.



BOOK LAUNCH & COFFEE MORNING

MOMENTS WITH THE MASTER - REV JOHN BEACOM

BALLINAMALLARD METHODIST HALL
SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
10.30AM - 12.00PM

Get your book signed with a cup of tea/coffee and a scone.

Moments with The Master

365 ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS FOR THE BUSY CHRISTIAN

£9.99 per book
All proceeds to The Mallard Hub

Fruits of creativity and parish memories celebrated at Crumlin art project

St Mary's Church in Crumlin was a hive of activity at the weekend as celebrations took place marking the culmination of their almost year-long art project. Working with ceramicist Michael Moore, parishioners

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have had their memories and stories of the life of their unique church immortalised in clay.



Some of the artistic parishioners of St Mary's Crumlin who took part in the art project along with ceramicist Michael Moore, Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Ruth Noble.

Clay is a fitting medium for their work as their church is built using the last of the local distinctive yellow Dolphin's Barn brick. The clay for these bricks came, as the name suggests, from nearby Dolphin's Barn, and the bricks were fired in Crumlin. The art project was sparked by an online

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talk by Dublin City Council's Historian in Residence, Cathy Scuffil, which Michael saw during lockdown.

In all, 10 parishioners unearthed their artistic skills during the project which was supported by a grant from Dublin City Council's Neighbourhood/Voluntary Arts Scheme and Ulster University. They were Jean Bovenizer, Joan Dixon, Netta Edgerton, Joy Elliott, Lavinia Heasley, Ray Kaye, Thomas Lynam, Violet Twohig, Maud Williams and Peggy Worrell.



One of the ceramic tiles made by parishioners of Crumlin.

The parishioners, aged from 50 to 100 years old, took part in regular sessions with Michael. None had ever worked with clay before and many doubted their artistic abilities.

Over time the group grew in confidence as they shared memories, stories and mementoes as the source of their inspiration for the clay tiles they created. These tiles mirror the small wooden carving on St Mary's pulpit which reflect life in the parish at the time the 'new' church opened in 1942.

Over the weekend people came from far and wide to view the exhibition, attend talks and explore the unique church. The celebrations concluded yesterday (Sunday November 19) with a Songs of Praise Service attended by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

Lavinia Heasley explained that there were three main phases to the project. Initially parishioners gathered to tell stories, share their memories and find mementoes from times past.

Then Michael came and outlined his vision for the project, much to the bamboozlement of the parishioners, Lavinia recalled. Their fears allayed, the parishioners entered what she termed the "factory phase" which involved them churning out tile after tile. "Central to all of this has been Michael Moore's gentle skill and cajoling. It has been really appreciated," she commented adding that their artwork will remain in situ in the church.

Michael Moore explained that he came to the project with a life-long love of clay and ceramics. He highlighted the importance of the church building. "Once the connection was made [between the building and the local clay] you could see that the community could be brought together making and learning new skills through their own hands. I

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pass St Mary's every day and now I have a much stronger connection with it and know how strong the community is here," he said.



Jean Bovenizer and her family with one of the tiles she made.

The Rector, the Revd Ruth Noble, outlined some of the memories which emerged during the process and have been transferred into the beautiful ceramic tiles. One of the key memories for those who grew up in the parish was the Sunday School outing. This involved a fleet of double decker buses which brought children to the Hole in the Wall at the beach in Sutton for an afternoon of games and fun.

There were also reminiscences of Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade, and St Mary's Dramatic Club and St Mary's Musical

Society who put on shows both in the parish and on tour around the country.

In his sermon, Archbishop Jackson commended the parish and community for the way in which they had drawn together memories. He attended the lecture in the church at the start of the project in March and was fascinated to learn about the building, its structure and its connections with the community. “This afternoon you have taken that further because through your ceramics you have expressed that sense of community,” he commented.

Drawing on Genesis 1.26: ‘Then God said, Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness ...’ he said that people had a responsibility to be creative. “It is, therefore, entirely appropriate that members of this parish of St Mary, Crumlin, have been creating their own memories of St Mary’s as a parish and as a community of faith and of neighbours, a community of people and of events by telling their stories – and have moved even further in creating these memories as ceramic tiles.

The fruits of this creativity are everywhere for us to see on this evening of celebration and they will give a new sense and a new depth to our Songs of Praise.

Our thanks and congratulation go to everyone who has participated in this project and to the equally wonderful ceramicist Michael Moore who has made it possible and made it happen by his personal skills and talents and generosity of teaching. To my mind, this is a wonderful way to draw together and to give expression to the voice of history in Crumlin Parish and to open this up to everyone to

experience, to explore and to enjoy over a weekend in mid–November when bright colour is to be cherished,” he said.

PCI submits RSE Consultation Response

The State Education Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has responded to the Department of Education’s consultation, which implements the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland’s compulsory and controversial changes to the Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) curriculum in Northern Ireland’s post-primary schools. The consultation closes on Friday (24 November).

Speaking about the submission, Karen Jardine, the Committee’s Acting Convener, said, “In the Presbyterian Church in Ireland certain core beliefs are foundational to our understanding of God’s design for the world and ourselves, our relationships with each other, and how they are expressed. This includes sexuality, and how that can be expressed in appropriate ways according to God’s design whether people are married or single.

“We recognise that the delivery of RSE, including how it is taught, will cover sensitive and personal issues. The primary objective of everyone involved in discussions and policy-making about RSE, however, should be that students in schools receive excellent Relationships and Sexuality Education, which allows them to explore their own moral frameworks and sets of values, and equips them to have healthy, respectful relationships in all aspects of their life.

“In an increasingly pluralistic context RSE should be taught in a sensitive and inclusive manner, in line with a school’s ethos. In our submission, we make the point that young people should have the opportunity to explore their own personal morals, values and beliefs, including the moral and ethical considerations around sensitive issues like abortion and contraception,” Miss Jardine said.

“PCI does, however, deeply regret the Secretary of State’s continued “pick ‘n’ mix” policy approach to Northern Ireland, which in this case, has placed unnecessary and unrealistic demands on the Department of Education based on the findings of the flawed UN CEDAW report, insisting upon the teaching of RSE without a particular view on moral, or ethical, considerations.”

Miss Jardine continued, “As we make clear in our response, it is naïve to suggest, that any aspect of education, including these most sensitive of topics, can be presented in a morally-neutral, or value-free environment, as there is no ‘neutral’ understanding of human identity and human sexuality.

“In developing resources, the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment will be making value judgments on what facts and what science is presented, and what is understood by ‘age-appropriate, comprehensive and scientifically accurate’. These resources should therefore also be open to scrutiny, and should ensure that they acknowledge differences in worldview positions, for example, the Christian belief in the sanctity of life from conception,” she said.

“It is also important to remember that the Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, which provides that the curriculum promotes the spiritual, emotional, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of pupils, remains unchanged. It continues to be the responsibility of school governors to ensure compliance with this statutory requirement.”

In line with current guidance, Miss Jardine concluded by saying that every school should have in place its own policy on how it will address the delivery of RSE. “The policy should be developed under the leadership of governors, in collaboration with parents, or carers, and pupils, as well as teachers and other educational and health professionals. Among other things, the policy will set out the aims and objectives of RSE and how teaching will support the school’s ethos and reflect the moral and religious principles held by parents and carers and school management authorities,” she said.

Seóirse Bodley - tribute by The Irish Church Music Association

The Irish Church Music Association is saddened to learn of the death of Seóirse Bodley, one of Ireland’s foremost composers and teachers over many decades. His contribution to music in Ireland is immense and his catalogue of compositions reached every style of music.



From a Church Music point of view, his Mass of Peace (1976), is one of the most frequently sung liturgical settings. While most congregations will not know his name, they will sing his music with ease. The Mass of Peace was one of four settings of the Mass commissioned by the late Fr. Jerry Threadgold through the Bishops' Music Panel. Together with Fintan O'Carroll's Mass of the Immaculate Conception, T.C. Kelly's Mass for Peace and Gerard Victory's Mass of the Resurrection – the settings known by their cover colours as the green, blue, pink and yellow Masses - helped to establish a national repertoire in a short time. The simplicity of Bodley's setting very quickly had congregations singing the Mass parts through use of the repetition of the melodic building blocks. The Gloria and Lamb of God from the Mass of Peace were sung by a congregation of over one million

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people at the first Papal Mass of Pope John Paul II here in Ireland's Phoenix Park on September 29 1979.

Bodley's other 2 Mass settings, the Mass of Joy – commissioned by the St. John of God order, and the English / Irish Mass of Glory / Aifreann na Glóire were to follow in subsequent years.

Bodley also contributed a very accessible setting of the Advent O Antiphons – published by Veritas in a volume that also contains a setting by Gerard Victory. Bodley's setting, like the Mass of Peace uses simple melodic phrases to allow easy participation by congregations while allowing the choir some simple harmonic verses for each antiphon.

The Mass of Peace is included in its revised version in the collection Sing the Mass (Veritas publications 2011).

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

In the media

The BBC's credibility with the Jewish community is reaching a point of no return - Daily Telegraph

On a daily basis, Britain's Jews are being harmed through its unbalanced reporting of the Israel-Hamas war and the failure of its senior management to get to grips with it.

This means that the time has now come for a long overdue independent inquiry into the corporation's editorial and management failures in its reporting of Israel.

The problems started almost as soon as Hamas began its horrific attacks on Oct 7. The BBC's unwillingness to describe the burning alive of families in their homes, the rape of women and the murder of babies as a terrorist attack is now well known and stands in stark contrast with its reporting of other recent terrorist incidents.

If it were possible, the BBC's description of these massacres has actually become more egregious. BBC News has since described the pogrom of Oct 7 as a "cross-border attack", as if it were a skirmish between two warring armies rather than the worst massacre of Jewish families since the Holocaust.

It's hard to find the words to describe both how offensive and reductionist this is. It makes me wonder whether any senior member of BBC management could look the families of the Oct 7 massacres in the eyes and tell them that they believe this is an appropriate description for the slaughter of innocent civilians and the kidnapping of children.

'The BBC's anti-Israel bias spans both its UK and global output and its broadcasting and online presence'
Unfortunately this is not an isolated incident. The BBC's anti-Israel bias spans both its UK and global output and its broadcasting and online presence. Examples of this could fill pages and many have been reported, including the corporation's inaccurate reporting of the bombing of the Al-Shifa hospital which led to the cancellation of President

Biden's meetings with Arab leaders and the reporting of a mob attack on Jews in Dagestan that the BBC described as simply 'anti-Israel'. The fact that the mob had chanted, 'We are here for the Jews. We came to kill them with knives and shoot at them' did not appear to qualify as a clear enough statement of racist intent.

Sadly, there is so much more. The BBC's diplomatic correspondent Caroline Hawley appears to have no interest in balance when it comes to Israel and the Hamas attacks. Her Twitter feed reads like a series of press releases from Hamas central command. Day after day Hawley reposts messages and photographs from Gaza without context or any apparent attempt at basic journalistic verification. There is barely a mention of the Oct 7 massacres or the ongoing plight of the Israeli hostages held by Hamas

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Exploring Ministry together

Down and Dromore's Exploring Ministry Group (EMG) meets every few months for worship, fellowship, prayer and teaching on leadership.

It's open to anyone who thinks God might be calling them into a new area of ministry such as a Reader, Evangelist or to Ordained Ministry.

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The next meeting is on Wednesday 22 November at 7.30pm in Magheralin Parish Church, 3 New Forge Road, Magheralin, Craigavon BT67 0QJ.

Explore ministry with others



The group meets four times a year and gives you the opportunity to connect with other like-minded individuals, to learn more about the process, discover your gifts, test your call, ask questions and receive prayer and support.

The programme runs over a two-year cycle, and you may join the group at any point in the two years.
How do I join the Exploring Ministry Group?

If you haven't already done so, it's a good idea to chat through your sense of call with your minister and other trusted Christians. Please also get in touch with one of the (Joint) Diocesan Directors of Ordinands, Revd Simon Genoe and Revd Karen Salmon who oversee the EMG.
See -

[<https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/11/exploring-ministry-together->]

Poem for today

The wound in time

by Carol Ann Duffy, 2018

It is the wound in Time. The century's tides,
chanting their bitter psalms, cannot heal it.
Not the war to end all wars; death's birthing place;
the earth nursing its ticking metal eggs, hatching
new carnage. But how could you know, brave
as belief as you boarded the boats, singing?
The end of God in the poisonous, shrapneled air.
Poetry gargling its own blood. We sense it was love
you gave your world for; the town squares silent,
awaiting their cenotaphs. What happened next?
War. And after that? War. And now? War. War.
History might as well be water, chastising this shore;
for we learn nothing from your endless sacrifice.
Your faces drowning in the pages of the sea.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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