

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Remembrance**

November 7, 2023

## Image of the day



## Remembrance

Knitted tops for mail boxes on a remembrance theme are popular this year.

## People and places

### Primacy celebrate 40 years of witness and look to the future

**On Sunday 5 November Christ Church Primacy, Church of Ireland, and Primacy Methodist congregations marked 40 years of witness in the Primacy community with a special Service of Celebration and an Anniversary Tea.**

The service involved representatives from the two denominations with both Bishop David and North–East District Superintendent, Revd Philip Agnew, giving a short address.

Dennis Dickson and Colin Burrows looked back over the years, sharing their memories of different leaders and seasons as both denominations became established and houses sprang up around the building.

The congregations have journeyed side by side over four decades but coming out of the pandemic, they began to worship together. They have also shared in mission with the SOMA team in June, Alpha on Sunday evenings and in children’s ministry through Tots at Primacy and Kids at Primacy.



Pictured above L–R: Canon Simon Doogan, Revd Philip Corrigan, Denise Wilson, Revd Philip Agnew and Bishop David McClay.

With 40 years behind them, Primacy is very much looking to the future. Denise Wilson is Community Pastor for Christ Church and she and Methodist Minister, Revd Philip Corrigan, shared their vision for a united, mission–shaped church.

Philip likened it to, “looking at getting married after 40 years of engagement.”

He continued: “We are better together, stronger together. There’s an emerging vision, and God is at work.”

“Yes we are on a journey,” said Denise, “but God is on the move as we seek to work together in this harvest field.”

We rejoice with everyone who worships and serves in Primacy and wish them every blessing for the future.

November 7, 2023



## School chaplain commissioned as Diocesan Reader



November 7, 2023

Luke Hawkins was commissioned as a diocesan Lay-reader on Sunday by Bishop Pat Storey of Meath & Kildare, during a service of Holy Communion in All Saints Church Mullingar.

Later in the day at Wilson's Hospital - "At this evening's Chapel Service, we thanked God for our wonderful Chaplain who was, today, commissioned as a Diocesan Lay Reader in All Saints, Mullingar by our Bishop, The Most Revd. Pat Storey. We concluded by singing our school hymn, 'Lord, for the Years'."

## Cork Three Faiths Forum elects new chair persons



At a recent meeting of the Cork Three Faiths Forum the Rev. Tony Murphy stepped down as their chair, having

November 7, 2023

completed two years in the role. Clair Lalor and Fahmeda Naheed were elected as new co-Chairs.

The Cork Three Faiths Forum Group was established in 2016 with the objective to bring together representatives of the three Abrahamic faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The Forum seeks to create a space where people of faith can dialogue openly and respectfully, come to a better understanding of each other's faith and work together to enhance tolerance, cooperation and friendship in society.

In 2023 the events organised by the Cork Three Faiths Forum included a Spiritual Reasoning Seminar on Interfaith Perspectives on Creativity, a celebration of Earth Day involving Cork's Social and Health Education Project (SHEP), and an Interfaith Art Exhibition Connecting Through Art as part of Cork Culture Night.



## **Lisburn remembers**

HM Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim, City councillors, public, military and ex-service representatives at Lisburn

November 7, 2023

War Memorial for a wreath laying ceremony marking Remembrance Week. Prayers were led by the Dean of Connor.



## Parishioners support for RBL Limavady

Assistant Poppy Appeal Organiser, Richard, and helpers offering poppies to the parishioners of Bovevagh Parish Church after their service on Sunday morning



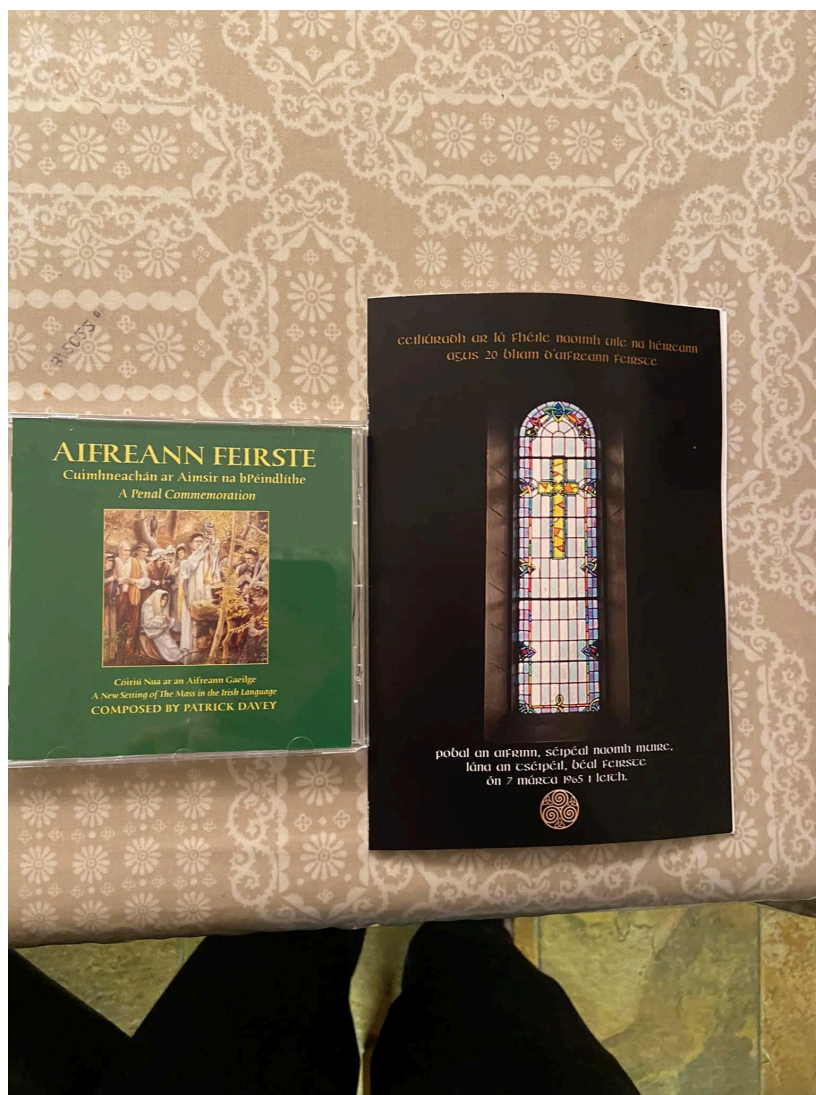
November 7, 2023

## Aifreann Feirste (The Belfast Mass) in St. Mary's, Chapel Lane

Not long back from a stunning and memorable performance of the Aifreann Feirste (The Belfast Mass), a setting of the Mass in the Irish language, composed by Patrick Davey, one of the most

distinguished of living Irish composers. The Mass, to mark the feast of all the saints of Ireland, was in St. Mary's, Chapel Lane, the oldest Catholic Church in Belfast, built in 1784 and financed largely by the generosity of the Presbyterians of Belfast in its golden age when Belfast truly was 'The Athens of the North', Eamon Hanna writes.

The chief celebrant was Bishop Dónal McKeown, eloquent in many languages, including faultless Gaeilge/Irish, together with the parish priest, Fr. Tim Bartlett. I was privileged to be at the inaugural performance of Aifreann Feirste in St Mary's in 2003 and I thought then (and still do) that it was brilliant work; it has more than stood the test of



November 7, 2023

time. In 2003 it was performed by The Glens Choir and the Aifreann Feirste Orchestra, conducted by David Strange, and the late much-lamented Éamann Ó Faogain. This year it was the same choir, choir and orchestra conducted by Patrick Davey himself, with a magnificent soloist in Méabh Nic Mhaoláin.

Aifreann Gaeilge has been held in St Mary's every Sunday for Catholic faithful from the Irish language community since 7 March 1965. It was particularly heartening to warmly greet two men who have done cion fir/trojan work for the Irish language community for decades, Seán and Seamus Mac Seáin.

Gura fada buan iad agus traidisiúin an Aifrinn Ghaeilge i séipéal Naomh Mhuire.

## Warm welcome to Killala

**The Institution of The Revd Canon Alex Morahan took place on Friday 3rd November, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala.**

The Rt Revd Michael Burrows led the service, opening with words of welcome for all present, including many who had travelled by bus from Bunclody – Rev Alex's former parish – to support him.

‘Just as in a single human body there are many limbs and organs, all with different functions, so we who are united with Christ, though many, form one body and belong to one



another as its limbs and organs. We have gifts allotted to each of us by God's grace' Romans 12. 5.6

The Archdeacon, the Venerable John Godfrey presented the Rev Morahan for institution to serve as Incumbent for the Killala Group of Parishes and members of the local community read the lessons which were from Jeremiah 31. 31-24 and 1 John 3. 1-3. The Rev Clive Moore read the Gospel and the Rev Canon Trevor Sargent preached, expressing his admiration for the Rev Alex, whom he has known for many years – going back to his time as a hospital chaplain. The Bishop then conducted the Act of Institution and the Commission, with members of the congregation presenting symbols of teaching, pastoral and sacramental ministry of an Incumbent being presented to the new Rector.

November 7, 2023

The Rev Morahan led the prayers of the intercessions and thanksgivings. Hymns sung included, 'Be Thou my Vision', 'One more step along the world I go', 'Ag Criost an Síol' and 'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life'.

After the service, words of welcome were extended on behalf of the parishes by Mr Norman Reid; for the RC Community, Bishop John Fleming; Minister Darragh Calleary TD.; Councillor Michael Loftus, Cathaoirleach, Mayo County Council – with much talk of Mayo for Sam!

The Bishop then spoke of the first time he had met Alex in Kilkenny when he arrived at the Bishops' residence in a camper van, with duck eggs – many theological conversations ensued and, he encouraged Alex to lay many great eggs in his new ministry in Killala! He then declared that he was about to mix his metaphors by pulling a rabbit out of the bag – bestowing upon the newly instituted Rector, a seat on the Chapter of Killala Cathedral, the Prebendary of Errew. The Rev Canon Alex Morahan responded with words of surprise and gratitude – for all the special people in his life – his partner Maggie and their daughter Megan, the loves of his life; his family, many friends and the teenagers and staff at Kilkenny College and to the Rev Canon Trevor Sargent who had been there as he celebrated his first service of Holy Communion as a Church of Ireland priest. He said he was genuinely glad to be back and looked forward to serving the community in Counties Mayo and Sligo. Refreshments were served afterwards at the Killala Community Centre. Report by Heather Pope, Tuam Diocesan Administrator

# In the media

**O'Rourke back where it all began**  
P70, 71

**Paul Brady interview**  
P32, 33

**Jake O'Kane**  
**Mask has slipped on efforts to 'transition' paramilitaries** P31

## McDonald says Israeli ambassador position 'untenable'



**JOHN MANLEY**  
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**S**INN Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald has toughened her party's stance over Israel's assault on Gaza, saying the

position of its ambassador in Ireland is "untenable".  
The party had previously declined to support calls for Tzipi Hotovely's expulsion but has signalled that she "should no longer enjoy diplomatic status".

Ms McDonald said she agreed with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, who said yesterday said Israel was not acting in self-defence. During a visit to South Korea, he said Israel's action in Gaza "isn't just self-defence, it resembles something more approaching revenge".



Sinn Féin president Mary Lou McDonald at the Ireland's Future event in Belfast yesterday

PICTURE: MARK MARLOW

The Sinn Féin leader said Israel is breaching international law in Gaza with "devastating consequences".  
"SDLP" leader Colum Eastwood reiterated his party's call for Ms Hotovely's expulsion.

"We are running out of time for a ceasefire to be effective, for humanitarian aid to make a difference - we are running out of time to prevent a genocide," he said.

The potential for increased hos-

ilities on Israel's northern border appeared to increase yesterday after the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah threatened "realistic escalation".

Hassan Nasrallah stopped short of announcing that Hezbollah had fully joined the Israel-Hamas war but warned that the current exchanges of fire could be scaled up.

US secretary of state Antony Blinken yesterday met Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to urge

protection for civilians in the fighting with Hamas, as Israeli troops tightened their encirclement of Gaza City.

The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says more than 9,000 people have been killed in the Strip since October 7.

Full reports P6-9

If a future Sinn Féin government expelled the Israeli ambassador in circumstances like these, how would it manage the simultaneous poisoning of diplomatic relations with the USA, Germany, Britain, every Nordic & eastern EU country, and most likely France? Like, seriously. - [Comment by Gerry Lynch](#)



**Catholic News Service Rome** - Pope Francis: Think of the children! "Stop, in the name of God: cease fire!" Free the hostages. Deliver aid to Gaza.

### **Israel and Gaza: What comes after the Time of War - RTE.ie**

In 2009, Benjamin Netanyahu delivered a passionate affirmation of the Middle East peace process at the Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv: "In my vision of peace, there are two free peoples living side by side in this small land, with good neighbourly relations and mutual respect, each with its flag, anthem and government, with neither one threatening its neighbour's security and existence."

<https://www.rte.ie/news/analysis-and-comment/2023/1105/1414696-israel-gaza-analysis/>

November 7, 2023



**Belfast News Letter** - Owen Polley writes in the News Letter: No amount of hype, obfuscation, or appeals for 'optimism' will alter the fact of the internal UK border

**A bullet hole in a hymn book... the unearthed picture which sums up depravity of Darkley - Noel McAdam**

**Sunday Life** - A gospel singer has spoken publicly for the first time of her terror on the night the INLA attacked a tiny country church. Edith Kenny recalls how a bullet grazed her face as she and the congregation sang, **Are You Washed in the Blood?**

Another bullet went through the hymn book which her daughter standing just beside her was holding at Mountain Lodge Pentecostal Church in Darkley, south Armagh.

Mrs Kenny is one of a number of victims who now have joined together in a new book which is being launched on the anniversary of the grim Sunday evening outrage.

They will be making rare public

appearances

at the launch this week to speak about and highlight their ghastly experiences 40 years ago this month.

Church members Harold Browne (59), Victor Cunningham (39) and David Wilson (44) died instantly in a hail of bullets, with one of the weapons later being traced back to the notorious Dominic 'Mad Dog' McGlinchey.

16 | NEWS www.sundaylife.co.uk Sunday Life 5 November 2023

# A bullet hole in a hymn book... the unearthed picture which sums up depravity of Darkley

**SHOCKING**  
Edith Kenny with the hymn book; and (above) a child's toy and a Bible lie on the floor of the church in Darkley

## Gospel singer who survived church massacre breaks 40-year silence over ordeal

**By Noel McAdam**

A GOSPEL singer has spoken publicly for the first time of her terror on the night the INLA attacked a tiny country church.

Edith Kenny recalls how a bullet grazed her face as she and the congregation sang, Are You Washed in the Blood? Another bullet went through the hymn book which her daughter standing just beside her was holding at Mountain Lodge Pentecostal Church in Darkley, south Armagh.

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Church members Harold Browne (59), Victor Cunningham (39) and David Wilson (44) died instantly in a hail of bullets, with one of the weapons later being traced back to the notorious Dominic 'Mad Dog' McGlinchey.

At first the church-goers thought pebbles were being thrown against the wooden walls of the building.

"I can never forget that night for so many reasons," Edith said. "As the 'Kenny Family' we were asked to sing at Mountain Lodge, but we did not know where it was.

"The Pastor (Bob Bain) met us at a location and we followed him along the beady roads to the church which was isolated in the country. It was a dark winter night but the people were friendly.

"Over 80 people had gathered, with children, and as we were singing the first hymn we heard like stones being thrown against the wooden building, and then small pieces of wood shot through the air as bullets penetrated the walls.

"A bullet grazed my face and my young daughter who was holding her hymn book, still singing — a bullet went through its pages.

"We all dived to the ground with nowhere to hide as the terrorists tried to get through the doors."

Mrs Kenny said she remembers her husband shouting at her to "come on" and added: "We cannot allow this to ever happen again. Too many lost their lives on both sides of the community."

She wanted to take part in the book, the book called *The Border Cleansing*, also includes the eyewitness account of Rodney Wilson, who was a young boy attending the church service with his father David, who was one of those killed.

It is being launched at the Seage Hotel in Portadown on Wednesday at 7.30pm which will also be attended by the widow of murdered MP Robert Bradford, Mrs Norah Bradford, and the sole survivor of the Kingsmill massacre, Alan Black.

Mr Black said the book also includes the story of the children of one of the Kingsmill victims, Kenneth Worton. Raquel and Suzanne were very young at the time of the massacre.

"I knew, liked and respected Kenny Worton. He was above all a family man who loved and talked much about his two precious girls," Mr Black added.

"That he and they were robbed of a life together full of shared memories is desperately sad but I know he would have been every bit as proud of his daughters today as he was in 1976."

Former Stormont minister Danny Kennedy is also speaking at the event — for which tickets are £10 — and said he believed the book is important "in recording the personal experiences of those who lived, and continue to live, close to the border with the Republic".

"Many people living in the border areas endured a particularly painful experience during the Troubles resulting in huge loss of life and great suffering and the book is an important contribution to ensure a more balanced narrative than that put forward by Republicans," added the ex-Unionist MLA, who also has an article in the book.

"It is particularly poignant that the book is being launched on the 40th anniversary of the Mountain Lodge massacre."

■ *The Border Cleansing*, by Maurice Wylie Media, is out on November 8, priced at £16.99. To order, visit [mauricewyliemedia.com](http://mauricewyliemedia.com)

**MIRACLE:** Edith Kenny after the shooting with a patch on her face pointing at the bullet mark in the hymn book. Pictured with her is husband Ronnie, son Ronald and daughter Edith. Right: INLA leader Dominic 'Mad Dog' McGlinchey

**AFTERMATH:** The scene in the wake of the massacre. Right: A piper plays at a memorial service after the atrocity; a policeman examines the crime scene and (small) Alan Black, the sole survivor of the Kingsmill massacre



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November 7, 2023

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November 7, 2023

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## Poem for today

**November**  
**by Emily Dickinson**

Besides the autumn poets sing,  
A few prosaic days  
A little this side of the snow  
And that side of the haze.  
A few incisive mornings,  
A few ascetic eyes, —  
Gone Mr. Bryant's golden-rod,  
And Mr. Thomson's sheaves.  
Still is the bustle in the brook,  
Sealed are the spicy valves;  
Mesmeric fingers softly touch  
The eyes of many elves.  
Perhaps a squirrel may remain,  
My sentiments to share.  
Grant me, O Lord, a sunny mind,  
Thy windy will to bear!

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

## Events review

A review of special services, art, music and drama. On site

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# Church News Ireland

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