

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – A special WW2 Poppy

Image of the day

A special WW2 Poppy

A special poppy, made from the metal of a crashed Second World War Catalina flying boat, will be on display at the Remembrance Service this Sunday in Derryvullan North Parish Church, Irvinestown in Clogher Diocese.

This poppy and a number of other similar poppies were presented to each church where the bodies of the 11 aircrew are buried after its crash in 1942.

The cemetery at Derryvullan North has the largest number of graves in Northern Ireland managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Lough Erne and the corridor to the Atlantic over Donegall were significant in the Battle of the Atlantic.

An Act of Remembrance and service will be held at Derryvullan North at 3.30pm conducted by Archdeacon Paul Thompson following a parade of veterans, the Royal British Legion and youth organisations through Irvinestown.

There are 74 graves of aircrew buried in this churchyard, lovingly maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A short distance away, at the Church of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, a further 10 similar graves are found.



St John's Newcastle

Just a little trailer of their beautiful knitted and crocheted poppy display on the lectern for Remembrance Sunday at 11.30am. Well done to all the ladies at Craft and Chat.

Enniskillen Remembrance

Numerous services will be

held at parish churches throughout Clogher Diocese this Sunday, with the service in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, following a ceremony at the Cenotaph in Belmore Street, the location of the Remembrance Day bomb in 1987.

Among those taking part will be Dean Kenneth Hall, who will conduct the service in the Cathedral at which the preacher will be the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis. A number of special guests representing the governments of Northern Ireland and the UK, the Republic of Ireland, the

November 9, 2023

American Consulate and the Polish Consulate will be in attendance.

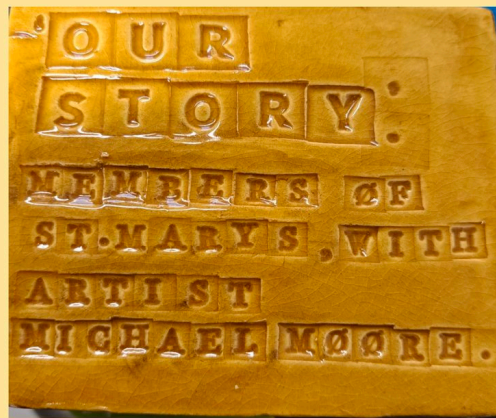
People and places

Members of St Mary's Crumlin to celebrate their building and stories in clay

On Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 November, St Mary's Parish Crumlin in Dublin diocese will open its doors to celebrate its unique building and the culmination of an art project to capture the memories and stories of its older parishioners.

The public are invited to visit the historic church from 12 noon to 4pm each day over the weekend and to view an exhibition of the clay artwork made by parishioners, working under the expert guidance of ceramicist and Ulster University Reader, Michael Moore.

The art project brought together a small group of parishioners from 50 to 100 years old for regular sessions with Michael from February to October. None of them had worked with clay before and many doubted their artistic abilities. Over the period, the group grew in confidence as they shared memories, mementoes, including some cine film from the 1960s, and stories, as the source of their inspiration for the clay tiles they would go on to create. These finished pieces will be exhibited over the weekend, along with information showing the process of creation. The



St Mary's Church Crumlin CELEBRATING OUR BUILDING AND OUR STORIES IN CLAY Sat. 18th & Sun. 19th November

clay tiles mirror the small, square wooden carvings on St Mary's pulpit which reflect life in the parish at the time of its building.

As well as opening the church for the exhibition, the weekend celebrations will also include two special events. On Saturday 18 November at 4pm, there will be a formal launch of the exhibition with two short talks. Susan Roundtree, conservation architect with a particular interest in architectural history and the history of brickmaking in Ireland, will give a talk on 'The architecture of St Mary's' and artist Michael Moore, who led the art project, will share 'The story of soap and other ceramic stories'.

On Sunday 19 November at 4pm the parish will hold a Songs of Praise service celebrating the parish and are

November 9, 2023

delighted to be joined by the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin for this special occasion.

Ruth Noble, Rector of St Mary's Crumlin said: "We are delighted with the success of the art project. Our older parishioners were very happy to remember St Mary's from many years ago but were a little intimidated at that thought of translating those memories into clay. It was wonderful to see them blossom as they gained in confidence, skill and pride in what they created".

Michael Moore, ceramic artist and project led, said: "The idea of making art and working with clay was something very new and strange to everyone at the start. But what we have achieved together is very special. It has been a privilege to get to know the people and stories of St Mary's and to capture its essence in clay".

St Mary's art project was generously supported by a grant from Dublin City Council's Neighbourhood / Voluntary Arts Scheme and by Ulster University.

Baby Bank will support local families in East Belfast

St John's Orangefield have launched the East Belfast Baby Bank – an initiative to help those who are finding it difficult to cope with the rising costs of children's essentials – clothing and hygiene products.

Now open for referrals, the East Belfast Baby Bank is for any parents/carers (of children aged 0–5) who are currently



in financial difficulties. It is the culmination of 10 months hard work; the EBBB volunteers have sorted mountains of donations, and, thanks to grants and generous donations from within the parish, have managed to get a purpose-built storage unit and shelving at the back of the church halls. The last grant applications are for plastic storage boxes so the clothes don't get damp in winter.

Volunteer, Barbara Lomas says: "There is a great need for the Baby Bank, with soaring prices of rent, heating, and food meaning that many families, even with two earners, have been forced to cut back on what are not seen as essentials. The result is children wearing ill-fitting shoes, clothing that is too small or seasonally inappropriate and nappies that are worn for far too long as they are so expensive to replace.

"We hope the donations keep coming in, so that we can give whatever help is possible and make life a little easier for as many families and carers as possible."

How does it work?



The Baby Bank will supply, on request to those who register, a gender and seasonally suitable package of a week's complete change of clothing and a toiletries package of nappies etc up to 4 times a year. Parents of newborn and premature babies can claim a 'Newborn Box' with additional supplies and first size clothing.

Clients contact the EBBB (Facebook, Instagram, Email or Phone) to request a registration form verified by a reference. After this, the client orders what is needed 1 week in advance of collecting and signing for the clothing and toiletries packages.

Collection is from the Duffin Rooms at the back of the church on a Friday morning 10.00am–12.00pm and



Donated goods in the custom made storage

coincides with the Tots Together group meeting in the church halls at the same time.

Please share the word in East Belfast!

Bishop's visit to Mayo parishes will support literacy projects

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, the Rt Rev'd Michael Burrows, plans to visit every church in this vast new merged diocese, which stretches from Mayo to Kerry and includes parts of

November 9, 2023

Offaly and Tipperary, as the Connaught Telegraph reports.

It covers over a third of the area of the island of Ireland and has nearly 100 churches.

Bishop Michael is an organist, and his 'tour' will involve him joining with congregations to play the organ, harmonium or piano in each of the churches in the diocese. For churches where there is no available instrument, he will bring along a keyboard.

Bishop Michael's project is entitled New Lamps Being Lit and intends to raise funds for two charities in Madagascar and Burundi both of which aim to empower women through literacy. This focus is to combat the poverty cycle through education.

As he points out: “Investing in education of women has a consequence in terms of benefits for the whole family. In many countries women still have to struggle for the sort of transformative educational opportunities that are simply taken for granted here.”

The peregrinations will be taking place over two weeks between November 12 and December 1, with a tight programme involving many different churches each day. The bishop is looking forward to meeting as many people as he can and to raising funds for these worthwhile projects.

The bishop will be visiting churches in Mayo on November 27 and 28.

November 9, 2023

The November 27 itinerary is: Easkey 10 a.m., Kilglass 11 a.m., Killanley 12 noon, Ballina 1 p.m., Killala Cathedral 3.15 p.m., Ballycastle 4.15 p.m. and Crossmolina 5.30 p.m.

November 28: Turlough 10 a.m., Castlebar 11 a.m., Westport 12.15 p.m., Knappagh 2 p.m., Aasleagh 3.15 p.m., before moving on to Moyard, Clifden, Errislannan and Roundstone.

Bishop Michael talks about his planned peregrination here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrPXLcfx6sk>.

Gartree Tractor Run raises £11,500 for charity



The Northern Ireland Children's Hospice was one of the charities to benefit from the Gartree Tractor Run. Priest-in-Charge, the Rev John Farr, is second from left in the picture.

The second annual tractor run at Gartree Parish Church raised £11,500, with the funds being distributed to a number of charities on Saturday November 4.

The event took place on September 30, with the route including the land at RLC Langford, Radox Health and the roads around Lennymore Bay at Lough Neagh.

Priest-in-Charge, the Rev John Farr, said: “The weather was unsettled but it didn’t deter the participants who turned up in great numbers and zeal with 130 classic and modern tractors, three lorries and one vintage car, along with several hundred members of the local community.”

Along with the tractor run, which had been sponsored by Radox Health, Martin Farm Machinery and Ross Farm Supplies, there was an auction, car boot sale, raffle and refreshments served in the Parish Hall.



November 9, 2023

The £11,500 raised was a £1,000 increase on last year's total. "This was absolutely excellent considering the inclement weather," said John.

Charities who received a share of the funds raised included NI Children's Hospice, UNIQUE, The Air Ambulance, RLC Langford charity account and Gartree Building fund.

John said: "I would like to pay tribute to all the hard work by our parishioners their families, our sponsors, those who donated to the auction and raffle and everyone who took part in order to make this such a roaring success.

"I would just finish by saying, God bless to all and 'Keep her Lit!'"

Cork's link with Finland celebrated

The Dean of Cloyne, the Very Rev. Susan Green, and the Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Ven. Andrew Orr, recently made the journey to Finland for the 100th anniversary celebrations of the diocese of Borgå. The Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross has had a long standing link with Borgå under the Porvoo agreement.

The Porvoo agreement was a ground breaking ecumenical document under which the Anglican Churches of Britain and Ireland committed to full sharing of ministry and resources with the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches.



Bishop Bo Gorån Åstrand with the ecumenical guests that took part in the Sunday service.

About 8% of the population of Finland have Swedish as their first language, and the diocese of Borgå was created in 1923 to bring together the Swedish speaking congregations from across the country. Their cathedral is in the small city of Porvoo (Borgå in Swedish) and the Dean and Archdeacon stayed there as guests of the diocese, representing Bishop Paul Colton.

During their stay, they attended an Experimental Liturgy called “Mass for Diversity” with a setting composed for 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. They had supper as guests of Bishop Bo Gorån Åstrand, along with Most Rev. Martin Modéus, the Archbishop of Sweden, and other clergy



and their spouses. They attended a Gala Concert, and as/ mpart of this, the Archdeacon gave a short speech in Swedish, Irish and English, bringing the warm greetings of Bishop Colton and highlighting the importance of international co-operation at a time when many nations were turning inwards. He referenced the important work of the recently deceased former Finnish President Maarti Ahtisaari in the Northern Ireland peace process.

On Sunday morning, the 100th anniversary celebrations came to a climax with a Eucharist broadcast live on Finnish

November 9, 2023

TV. The Dean of Cloyne took part, praying for the Porvoo churches and peace and justice across the world.

Dean Green said: This was a wonderful opportunity to get to know our Finnish friends and to share greetings from Cork with them. It was so lovely to get to know colleagues who are working in very different places.

Archdeacon Orr said: This was a wonderful visit to our friends in Borgå diocese, and they could not have been more welcoming. We look forward to Bishop Bo Gorån Åstrand leading a visit to Cork, Cloyne and Ross in the very near future.

News reports

World Communion of Reformed Churches' first liaison officer installed in Rome

A special service was held at St Andrew's Church in Rome on Monday to induct a new minister.

Rev Tara Curlewis will also serve as the World Communion of Reformed Churches' first liaison officer in the Italian capital.

She said ecumenism "is in her DNA" and churches are "at their best when their voices unite to advocate for shared concerns together".

November 9, 2023



[Rev Joanne Evans-Boiten and Rev Tara Curlewis.](#)

Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly, preached a sermon at the service, which was led by Rev Joanne Evans-Boiten, Moderator of the Presbytery of International Charges.

Addressing the congregation, Ms Curlewis said: "I come to you from the Uniting Church in Australia that has formed me for ministry.

"Without the support of my church to learn, grow, speak and live an ecumenical ministry, I would not be standing before you today."



St Andrew's Church was established in Rome 161 years ago and the congregation today comes from all the continents and is diverse and international.

Addressing the congregation in a sermon, Ms Foster-Fulton said: "If every human person is a stand-in for God and we are to walk humbly with God, we are called to walk humbly with each other because, not to see ourselves as more important, not to view any other person as 'less than'.

"Quite the opposite actually.

"We won't always get it right but what a challenge and a humbling request — in every encounter, in every situation, with every decision.

November 9, 2023

"I am excited about the adventure you are on and that Tara will join you — what a journey you will take together.

"So many challenges and so much to do but look around you, the gifts are here.

"Minds imagining, hearts pumping, hands holding.

"God has given you each other."

Perspective

Remembrance - NI veterans commissioner, Danny Kinahan

Each year as veterans commissioner, I record a remembrance video at a local war memorial.

This year I recorded my message at the memorial garden in Randalstown where earlier in the year a memorial was unveiled to remember the men and women who served the community as members of the 9th Battalion of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Greenfinches, the female members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, and I am pleased that this significant milestone has been marked in a number of different ways throughout the year.



Ballylesson Parish Church at Drumbo is illuminated 'red' this week as we approach Remembrance Day. In the churchyard there are a number of Commonwealth War Graves from WW1, WW2 and our recent troubles.

I pay tribute to the men and women who served in the Home Service Regiments and those who continue to serve in our armed forces throughout the world, ever remembering those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in serving our country. Society owes deep thanks and gratitude to all of our armed forces veterans and their service should never be rewritten as anything other than duty in the protection of society against the evils of terrorism and oppression.

November 9, 2023

While we must remember those who have gone, we must also look after those who are left behind. For that reason, I would ask you to support this year's Royal British Legion poppy appeal. Never before has your donations meant so much to so many, in providing the much-needed support and care of our veterans and their families.

The poppy appeal has aided the care of not just our veterans, but also the widows and families of those who have lost loved ones whilst protecting our society. At this time of year, we continue the tradition started by previous generations to remember and reflect on the sacrifice made by so many, in conflicts past, that allows us to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

I would please ask you to give as generously as you can to this year's poppy appeal.

We Will Remember Them.

Poem for today

Dulce Et Decorum Est by Wilfred Owen

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through
sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots



Of disappointed shells that dropped behind.

GAS! Gas! Quick, boys!-- An ecstasy of fumbling,
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And floundering like a man in fire or lime.--
Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood

November 9, 2023

Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,--
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.

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

