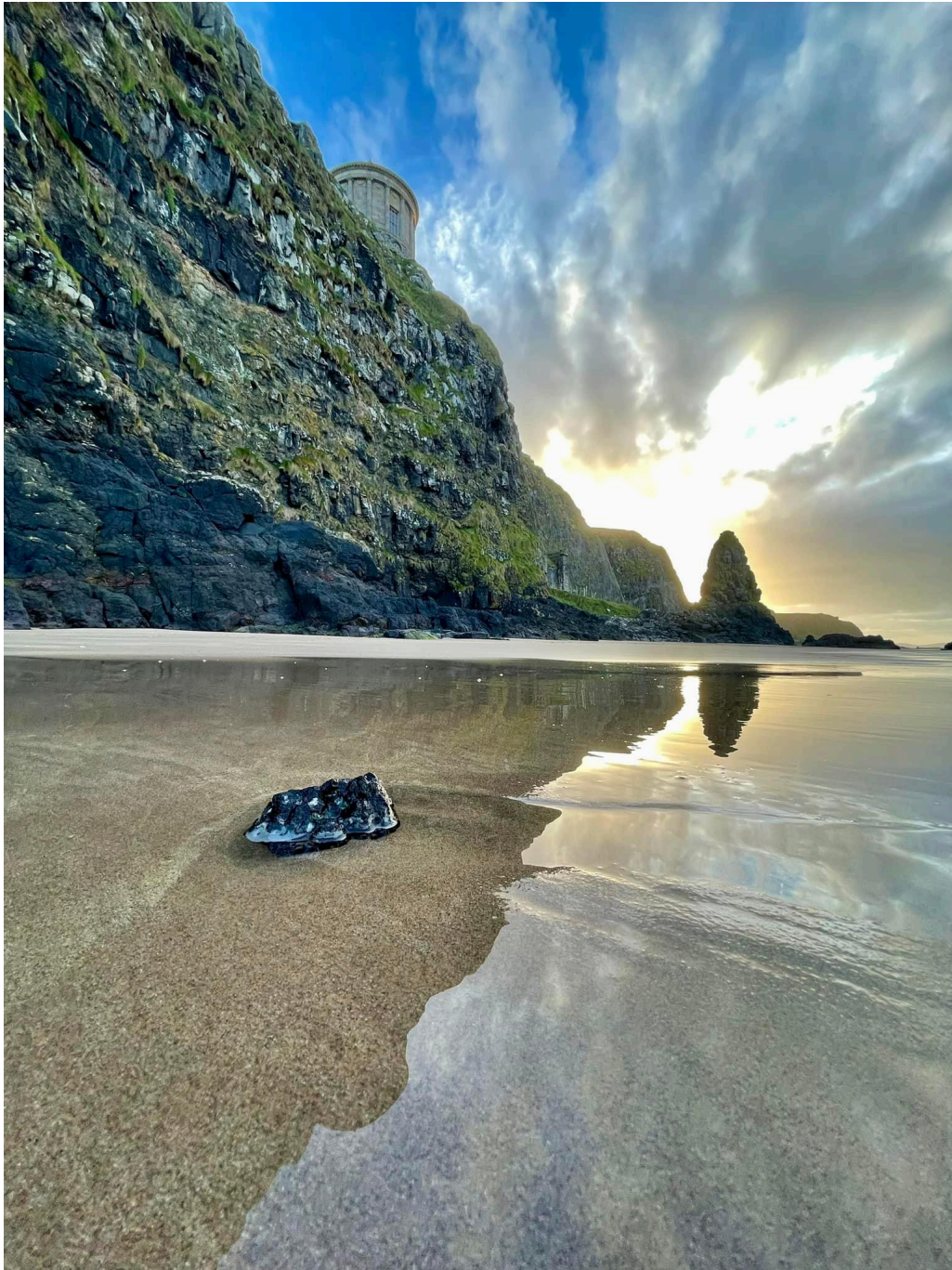


# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Temple of Winds at Mussenden**

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Carlow Sunday Club integral part of Entente Florale Competition

C of I Diocesan Youth Officers 24hr gathering

Blessing of Tartaraghan Parish's new rectory

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Irish President attended service where cleric accused Israelis of deploying 'master race' theory.

## Image of the day

The Temple of the Winds at Mussenden viewed from the north shore of County Londonderry.

## News

### Carlow Sunday Club integral part of Entente Florale Competition



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**At the start of service in St Mary's Carlow on Sunday morning thanks were expressed to the children of the Sunday Club and their work in the church garden was acknowledged .**

This work was an integral part of our showcase for the Entente Florale Competition in the summer. Rev Paul presented each of our Sunday Club families with a little gift to thank them for their help. Rev Paul also gave the children a beautiful bird house which Martha one of the parishioners made for the Sunday Club kids. It's absolutely beautiful.

After the Gospel reading the children withdrew and went to the Community Hse where they set to work making a forest of little Christmas trees. They used old colouring pencils! "We're not ready to show you the final look yet but our window space is coming together beautifully!"

## **C of I Diocesan Youth Officers 24hr gathering**

**Diocesan Youth Officers from around the island met for their annual 24hr gathering.**

Facilitated by Sam Moore @innovista\_ireland. "This is always an important time away to reflect, hear, learn & plan together." #youthworkchangeslives

<https://www.facebook.com/474829761344038/posts/971903171636692>

## Blessing of Tartaraghan Parish's new rectory

**The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Revd John McDowell, led prayers of blessing in the hallway of the new rectory and toured the building just before preaching at the harvest festival service in the church, just a few hundred metres away.**



Photo - Archbishop with the rector of Tartaraghan & Diamond, Canon David Hilliard, his wife Louise, the builder, Sam McNiece, and members of the Select Vestry of Tartaraghan (L-R) Ethel Moore, Jennifer Harrison, Paul Holmes, Alicia Dickson, Geoffrey Benson and Nigel Pierson. The architect was Stephen Leighton.

Tartaraghan rectory - photo next page.



## **Donaghmore Mothers Union Branch celebrate 75th Anniversary**

**Donaghmore Branch celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a Holy Communion Service. Archdeacon Thompson (Rector) welcomed everyone. Rev Alan Cross (Diocesan Chaplain) led the first part of**





## the Service.

A wonderful address was delivered by Lady Eames (Photo page above). The lessons were read by Julia Burnside, (Branch Leader) and June Butler (All Ireland President). Prayers were led by Hilary Bell, Winifred Hewitt (both members), Iris Suitor (Zonal Trustee) and Debbie Davidson



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Prayers were led by Hilary Bell, Winifred Hewitt (both members), Iris Suitor (Zonal Trustee) and Debbie Davidson (Diocesan President and member of the Branch). The Choir sang a beautiful piece.

After the Service, Jean McIvor, their longest serving member cut the cake assisted by Lady Eames and June Butler. Tea, scones and cake were served



## Celebrating 95 years of the Boys Brigade in Castlecaulfield





“

Every human life possesses infinite dignity - a dignity that remains constant regardless of circumstance or condition.

We all deserve care at every stage of life, and those who are dying have the right to holistic accompaniment that honours their dignity.

”



"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful."

Pastoral letter from Bishop Alan McGuckian, SJ  
Diocese of Down and Connor

## Pastoral Letter addresses end-of-life care

**Bishop Alan McGuckian of Down & Connor recently published a pastoral letter called 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful'.**

The letter addresses the crucial matter of end-of-life care in light of the proposed Terminally Ill Adults Bill to be discussed in Westminster on November 29th.

In the letter Bishop Alan reaffirms the Catholic Church's teachings on the inherent dignity of human life. Every

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person, regardless of circumstance or condition, possesses an infinite dignity that must be upheld and protected. This core belief compels us to firmly reject assisted suicide.

You can read the full letter from this link: <https://www.downandconnor.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Pastoral-Letter-AMcG-13-November-2024-.pdf>



**ORDER OF MALTA  
IRELAND**

## **Irish first-aider receives Order of Malta award for heroic actions during London terror attack**

**The Order of Malta Ireland has announced that Mrs Joanne Saunbury (née Crofton) has been awarded the prestigious Cross of the Order pro Merito Melitensi.**

The unique honour was bestowed upon her by Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta during a solemn ceremony at St Mary's Church, Haddington Road, Dublin.



The Order formally recognised that Mrs Saunsbury, a native of Wexford who demonstrated extraordinary courage and selflessness during the tragic events of March 22, 2017. While working on a tour bus crossing Westminster Bridge in London, she witnessed the onset of a terrorist attack that claimed the lives of five individuals including unarmed police officer Keith Palmer who was guarding the entrance to the Palace of Westminster and injured over 50 others.

She rushed to the aid of a critically injured man lying unconscious on the ground. Drawing upon her training with the Order of Malta in Wexford, she administered CPR and worked tirelessly to resuscitate him. "I was trying to get him to breathe and to get his heart beating," she said. "Where there's life, there's hope."

Her quick thinking and bravery not only provided immediate life saving assistance but also embodied the core values of the Order of Malta-upholding human dignity and offering compassionate care in times of crisis.

Patrick Downes KM praised Mrs Saunbury after the ceremony, stating: "Joanne's selfless actions in the face of imminent danger are a testament to her character and reflect the core principles of our Order. She is a shining example of courage and compassion, and we are honoured to recognise her today."

The Cross of the Order pro Merito Melitensi is one of the highest honours granted by Decree of the Sovereign Council of the Order of Malta, awarded to individuals who have displayed exceptional merit.

As we commemorate the 850th anniversary of establishing our first priory in Ireland at Kilmainham-now the site of the Royal Hospital-the Order of Malta continues a proud legacy of service that spans centuries. We are one of the world's oldest medical charities and have over 60 active units across the island of Ireland, staffed by thousands of highly trained volunteers dedicated to serving their communities.

Our volunteers provide a wide range of essential services, including first aid training, emergency medical support, and community care initiatives. Their commitment reflects the enduring mission of the Order: to uphold human dignity and provide compassionate assistance to the poor and the sick.

Order of Malta Ireland: <https://orderofmaltaireland.org/>

## Popular conservative Christian named US ambassador to Israel

**President-elect Donald Trump has nominated Mike Huckabee, the former Republican governor of Arkansas and an evangelical Christian, as the next US ambassador to Israel.**

“Mike has been a great public servant, Governor, and Leader in Faith for many years,” Trump wrote in a statement. “He loves Israel, and the people of Israel, and likewise, the people of Israel love him. Mike will work tirelessly to bring about Peace in the Middle East.”

Following the announcement, Mr. Huckabee told Israeli Army Radio that he “won’t make the policy”, but “will carry out the policy of the president”. He emphasised that “there’s never been an American president [than Trump] that’s been more helpful in securing an understanding of the sovereignty of Israel” and cited the previous Trump administration’s decision to move the US embassy to Jerusalem and to recognise the Golan Heights as Israeli territory.

Mr Huckabee has criticised the Biden government’s approach to the Israel-Hamas war, saying in March that the Biden administration has “made it very clear they will make concessions to Hamas”.

He’s also previously demonstrated staunch support for Israel. In an interview in 2017, he said: “There’s no such

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thing as a West Bank. It's Judea and Samaria. There's no such thing as a settlement. They're communities, they're neighbourhoods. There's no such thing as an occupation."

In 2008, during his presidential campaign, he said: "There's really no such thing as a Palestinian" in response to a question about the possibility of a Palestinian state existing outside Israel. "You have Arabs and Persians, and there's such complexity in that. But there's really no such thing [as



The poster features a dark background with a string of warm white lights at the top. A red bow and two golden bells are centered above the main title. The title 'CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR' is written in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, six white-outlined Christmas ornaments are arranged in a row, each containing text about the fair's offerings. The date and time are prominently displayed in yellow, and the location is in white. The bottom of the poster is decorated with red and white striped candy canes, a red ribbon, and a wrapped gift box. At the very bottom, there is small text regarding the event's purpose and financial details.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**

Storytelling with Mrs Claus & the Naughty Elf

Mulled Wine Refreshments Mince Pies Shortbread

Apple Juice Honey Homebaked Goods

Candles Soaps Cards Prints

Crafts Knit & Crotchet Wreaths Flowers

Christmas Trees Stables Ornaments

**Fri 22nd November 2024**

**6-9:30pm**

**Mullabrack Church Hall**

**MK** MULLABRACK & KILCLUNEY PARISHES

**ABA** ANA

In support of the 2025 Mission and Building Projects in Uganda  
Charity no. NI 104086.  
Stall income is for the account of each stall holder.  
Catering and entertainment income for our Uganda Mission and Building Project

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a Palestinian]. That's been a political tool to try and force land away from Israel."

Israel's finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, welcomed the appointment, posting his congratulations to "a consistent and loyal friend" on social media platform X.

National security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir posted Mr Huckabee's name alongside heart emojis.

Huckabee served as governor of his home state of Arkansas from 1996 to 2007 and attempted to become the Republican presidential candidate in both 2008 and 2016.

Between these bids, he had his own talk show on Fox News. Before his political and television career, he was a pastor at Baptist churches in Arkansas.

## Cathedral Calls

### **Derry Cathedral Sunday School in Operation Christmas Child**

**Members of Derry Cathedral Sunday School welcomed Lucy and Emma who were visiting their Granny!**

Members were also doing their preparation for the Christmas Celebration and filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. 4 boxes were filled, which is fantastic, and

handed two over on behalf of Suzanne! “Thank you one and all for your gifts they will put a smile on a child's face this Christmas!”

## **Cathedrals engage with Christmas Markets**

### **From Carlisle to Truro, Peterborough to Ripon and Ely to Winchester**

...cathedrals are partnering with local makers, crafters, buyers, businesses, charities and other organisations to offer visitors unique Christmas gifts and craft fairs.

#### **Sheffield Cathedral**

The return of Sheffield Cathedral’s craft and flea market last Saturday with its emphasis on shopping small and shopping local with a huge selection of products - from illustrations to vintage bric-a-brac, plants to jewellery, sustainable products to food and ceramics to candles.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sheffields-christmas-craft-flea-tickets-1040203084427>

#### **Exeter Cathedral**

Exeter Cathedral was founded by St Edward the Confessor in 1050 shortly before he re-founded Westminster Abbey and both churches are dedicated to St Peter. Exeter Cathedral is considered the finest examples of Decorated Gothic architecture anywhere and has the longest span of



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medieval vaulting in the world and the tallest medieval Bishop's Throne Canopy. Its visual beauty is a story in stone and glass, embroidery and wood of the faith that built it; a faith which is alive and well and can be experienced here every day. The Cathedral has a rich heritage as a place of prayer, pilgrimage and wonder and the choir of children and adults have been singing here almost daily for hundreds of years. The Cathedral is loved by many around the world who come to visit us and Glorious Devon

Exeter Christmas Market

[<https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/events/exeter-christmas-market-3/>]

## Clergy and ministry

### Mullabrack and Kilcluney Abaana team

**Meet the Team - Janet. I am married to Winston and blessed with 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls who have all flown the nest and given us 15 grandchildren aging from 2-21 years, so we are never bored !**

+I am semi-retired a few months ago, having worked as a GP receptionist for 30 years. I currently work a few hours as a call handler with the Southern Trust.

+I am very thankful for the opportunity once again to travel on an Abaana team to Uganda and already have met most of the lovely, excited people from Mullabrack and Kilcluney Parish Group. As a 'blow in' from Aughnacloy they have made me very welcome.

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+I have been a member of Ballymagrane Presbyterian Church, Aughnacloy for 49 years and over the years have helped out where needed in church activities.

+Winston and I have been involved with Abaana and teams for a very long time - I think since 2004 when our daughter Cathy joined one of the first youth teams to Uganda.

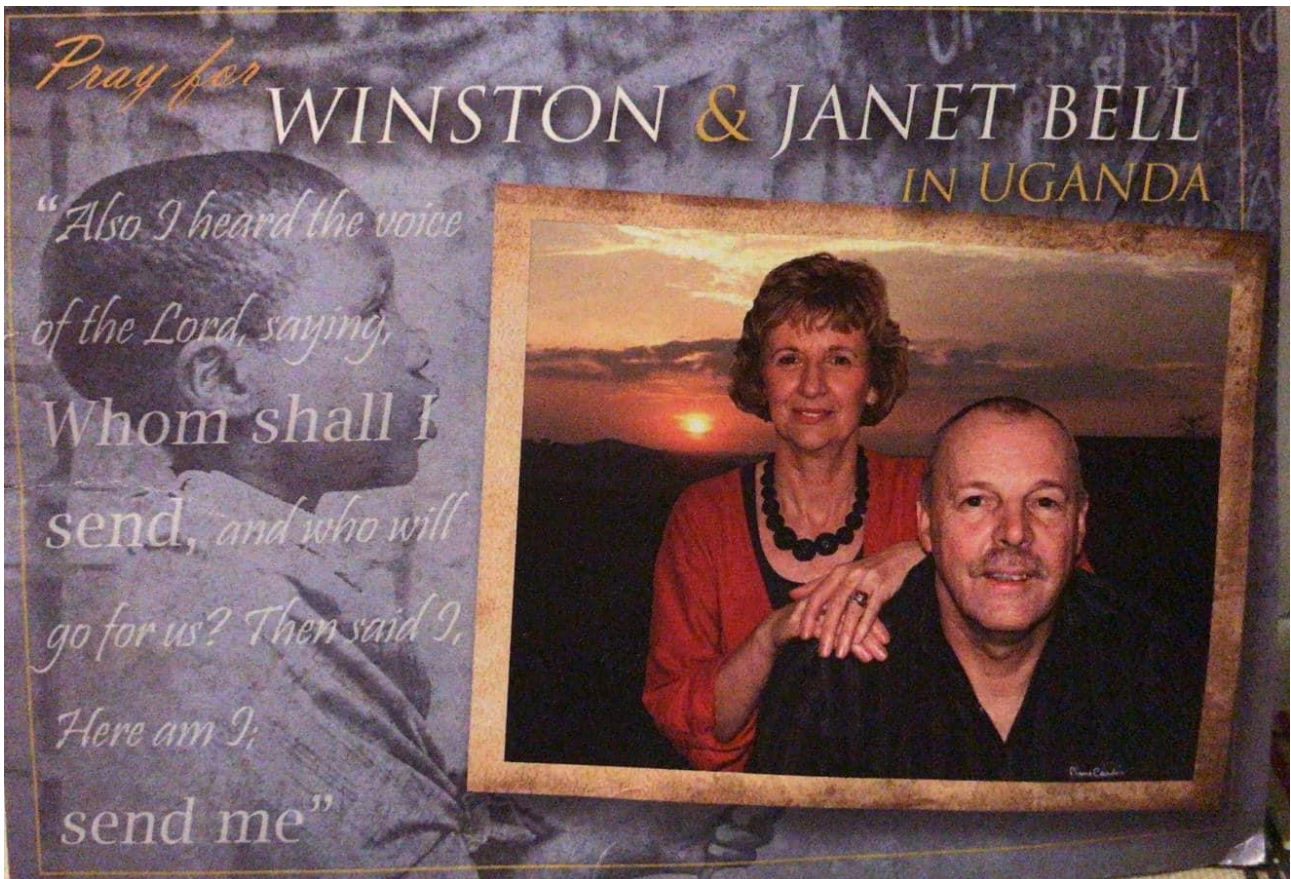


+I had the privilege of serving on my first Abaana team in 2006, then 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2016.

+Also during 2013 -2015 Winston and I served with Abaana in Uganda for 2 years, Winston as Construction Overseer and I was Teams Co-ordinator.

We had many wonderful experiences and many blessings both given and received.

+We were kept busy with building projects, painting projects, school and sponsorship projects, community projects, water sanitisation and guttering projects, Street boys and New Life Home and we even built a go-cart which brought great enjoyment to the kids (the pram wheels came from N I) 😂



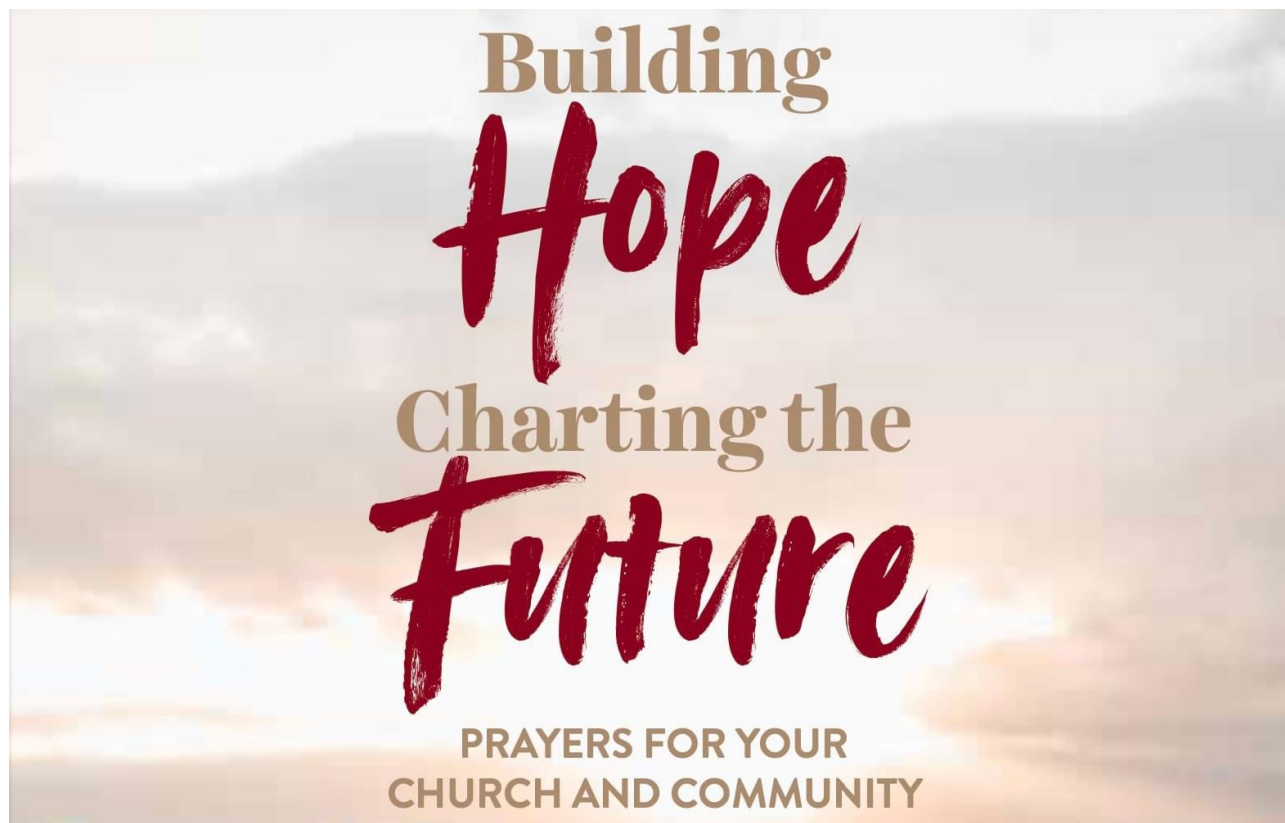
Needless to say I am so excited and looking forward to going back to serve once more with the Mullabrack and Kilcluney team.

† Our aim is to show young people and not so young that through sacrificing a little time and money and sharing the Love of God in a practical way with those in need, it can really make a difference to those in Uganda and also how our own 'Personalised Road Map' develops..

📖 Proverbs 16v9..

A man's mind plans his way, but The Lord directs his steps and makes them sure.

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



## Derry & Raphoe new, free prayer resource

The Diocese of Derry & Raphoe has published a new, free prayer resource, 'Building Hope, Charting the Future', to help people pray for our Church and the community.

The pocket-sized booklet reflects the issues and realities that many of God's people are grappling with currently, such as the cost-of-living crisis, ill health, loneliness and anxiety. There are prayers, too, for political leaders, for the renewal of the Church, for the building up of faith, for clergy, for vocations, for the missionary Church and – locally – for “vision and purpose” as the ongoing diocesan review continues.

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Commending the booklet to parishioners, Bishop Andrew said he hoped they would find its readings and prayers helpful. “Being able to pray is one of the greatest gifts that God has given us. Let’s



use that gift as we seek to build hope and chart the future of our parishes and diocese.”

The new resource includes ‘Prayers for Your Parish’, ‘Prayers for the Diocese’, ‘Prayers for Your Wider Church’, ‘Prayers for those Struggling with Life’, ‘Prayers to Build Up Faith’, ‘Prayers to Build Vision and Hope’ and ‘Prayers for Mission & Pioneering’.

‘Building Hope, Charting the Future’ is similar to a previous prayer resource, ‘Hope in the Pandemic’, which was produced four years ago to encourage parishioners during the Covid–19 crisis; it proved extremely popular throughout the diocese and far beyond. Bishop Andrew hopes ‘Building Hope, Charting the Future’ will prove equally reassuring and just as popular.

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“In almost 50 parish groups in over 110 churches, our diocese has faithfully served God through challenges in the past,” Bishop Andrew said, “and we look to God with confidence into the future, knowing that He is always faithful and His love is the same, ‘yesterday, today and forever.’”

‘Building Hope, Charting the Future’ is available free. Anyone looking for a copy should contact their rector, in the first instance, or they can get in touch with the Diocesan Office: 24 London St, Londonderry BT48 6RQ.

## **Walk in a winter wonderland in Wicklow**

**Take a walk in a winter wonderland in Wicklow this December, when Nun’s Cross churchyard is transformed with tree lights, animals & figures, light show, Christmas music & Christmas tree festival.**

Visit Santa and warm up with homemade mince pies and mulled wine. Dec 6th to 8th, 4pm to 8pm daily. Tickets on Eventbrite.

## **6 things to do in Northern Ireland in November**

**Belfast Christmas Market, 16 November - 22 December.** Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the award-winning Belfast Christmas Market is back with a nostalgic Victorian twist.

**Seamus Heaney Exhibition,** Bellaghy, County Londonderry, until 30 December.

**Montalto Estate, Ballynahinch, County Down**, visit website for open dates and times. A visit to Montalto Estate is the perfect way to reconnect with nature, in a natural, historical, and truly relaxing setting.

## **Festive paint and sip at Benburb**

Join us for a festive Paint 🎨 & Sip 🍷 at Benburb Priory on Friday 13th December at 7pm.

For £35, take a walk through the beautifully decorated 19th-century Priory house before settling in for a creative evening. Bring your own drinks as artist Leon guides you step-by-step in creating a seasonal painting. It's the perfect way to relax and get into the Christmas spirit.

We might even have a surprise visit from Santa



**LIGHT**  
of the world

Gathering together of churches in  
worship & prayer

Sunday 1 December, 6.30pm  
**At Bangor Parish Church**

*Carol Service*

A BANGOR CITY CHURCHES INITIATIVE

November 19, 2024

To book please see link below

<https://buytickets.at/benburbpriority/1472271>

## **'Light of the World' in Kilrea**

The Kilrea Group of Parishes will brighten up one dark evening, at least, when they celebrate 30 years of their Vintage Rally and Fair at a special event, 'Light of the World', in Tamlaght O'Crilly Parish Church on Friday 29th November.

## **In the media**

### **Calls for Archbishop of York to step down following Justin Welby scandal**

**Daily Telegraph - The Archbishop of York is under pressure to step down over his handling of child abuse cases in the Church of England.**

The Most Rev Stephen Cottrell faced calls to resign on Sunday from a survivor who said he is perpetuating a Church “cover-up” and a former abuse inquiry leader whose work was prematurely disbanded by the Archbishops’ Council last year.

Rev Matthew Ineson, 56, a retired vicar who was abused at 16 by a Bradford priest, said the Archbishop of York failed to hold clergy accountable for mishandling his case.

He said: “Until there is a complete clean sweep at the top, nothing is going to change.”



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The demands follow the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, last week, who was forced to quit over his failure to act on concerns over child abuse committed by evangelical Christian John Smyth.

[<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/11/17/archbishop-york-justin-welby-sex-abuse-scandal/>]

### **BBC News: InDepth**

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c154023xkzlo>]

## **Irish President attended service where cleric accused Israelis of deploying ‘master race’ theory**

**Jewish Chronicle - An Anglican cleric accused Israel of deploying a “master race” theory in a sermon to a high-profile audience that included the Irish president.**

Canon David Oxley was accused of “hijacking” the solemn Remembrance Sunday event at St Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin with a diatribe in which he also suggested Israelis believe themselves to be intrinsically more valuable than “other” groups.

“Then the elimination of others follows as a matter of course because they don’t count,” Oxley said.

<https://www.thejc.com/news/world/irish-president-attended-service-where-cleric-accused-israelis-of-deploying-master-race-theory-f89337zn?>

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[utm\ source=sharebutton&utm\ medium=email&utm\ campaign=top](#)

## **Historic cathedrals, churches and chapels at risk of disrepair nears 1,000**

**Daily Telegraph - Places of worship 'in danger as never before' because of lack of funding, warns heritage charity as 53 are added to emergency repair list**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/11/17/historic-cathedrals-churches-chapels-risk-disrepair-rises/>

## **Regular patrols to be held at cemetery after paramilitary displays**

**BBC News - Belfast City Council has said it has made changes to security at Roselawn cemetery and crematorium in response to concerns over paramilitary displays.**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy4ng7393l9o>

## **Speaking to the soul**

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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# Church News Ireland

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