

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Northern Lights at Saul

October 12, 2024

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Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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Image of the day

Northern Lights at Saul

Northern lights have been prevalent this season. St Patrick and Saul speaks to heaven and earth.

News

Lisbellaw Harvest schools support



The Rev'd William this week handed over to Jason and Joanne, principals of Lisbellaw and Tattygar Primary Schools, cheques totalling £800 - £400 to each.

This followed our recent Harvest Concert In Lisbellaw Parish Church, Clogher diocese, which was part of the parish outreach into the local community. The Harvest Thanksgiving continues with three services this weekend - at 8.00 pm on Friday and at 11.00 and 7.00 on Sunday - to which all are warmly invited. Warmest thanks again to Mr J Ireland and Concentio Chamber Choir and to our two Primary Schools who performed splendidly.

Carnmoney Parish pilgrimage to Kildare and Clonmacnoise

“Thirteen of us left Carnmoney as we embarked on our pilgrimage to Kildare and Clonmacnoise where we hope to learn about Ciaran and Brigid, draw closer to God and also have a lot of fun!

We arrived at the Mount St. Anne's Conference centre via a stop off at Faughert shrine and ancient graveyard, the place

Luke's portrayal of Jesus in relation to women

Rev Professor Gordon Campbell
Former Principal of Union Theological College



EQUAL
to lead

WED 13 NOV 24
7.30-9.00pm, City Church Bangor
www.equaltolead.com

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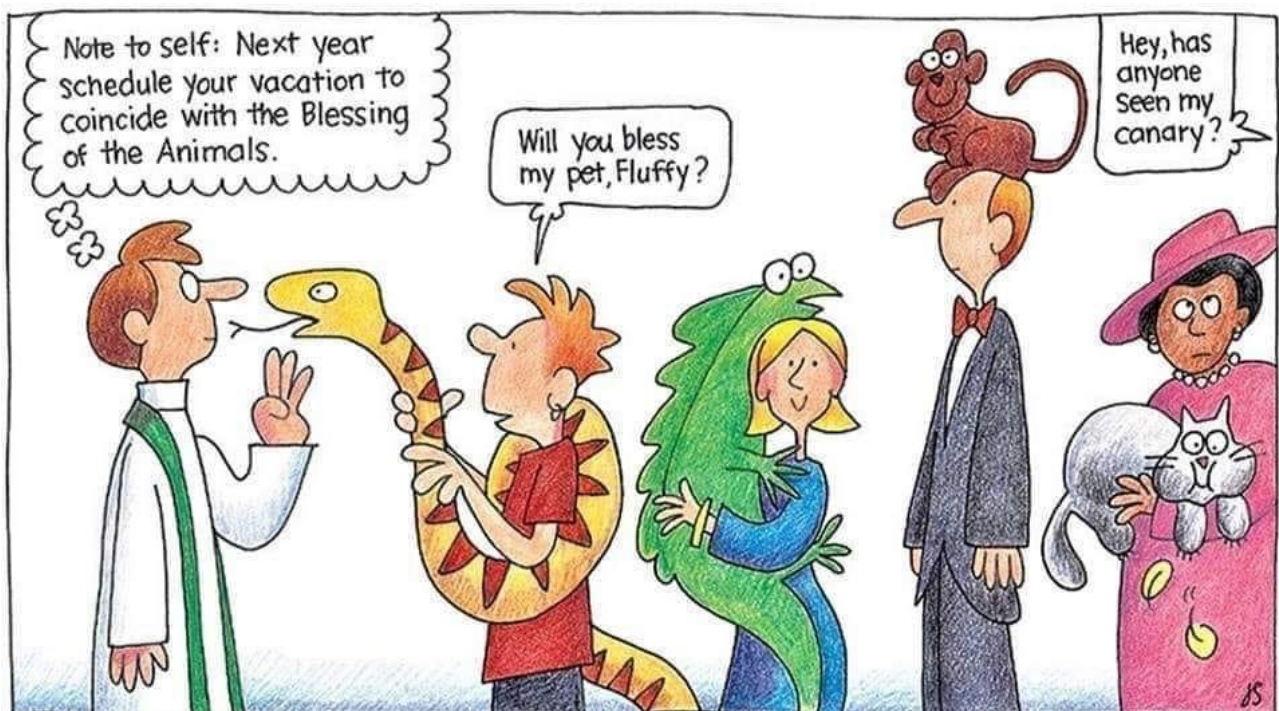
where Brigid was born. We were all struck by how peaceful the two places were.

An evening of worship and games followed our evening meal. Carol was the scrabble champion, much to Jean and Shirley's disgust whilst Heather was very good at the Genius square.

'Faithful' Theme for Derry and Raphoe Youth

The theme for the next year will be 'Faithful', exploring different people throughout the Bible and their stories.

“It's going to be a great first back on Saturday 12th October, with our very own Kirsty McCartney as our guest speaker. We have a few new things this year and looking forward to sharing them with you all”.



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Doors will open at 7pm for some chats, games and refreshments before the main event begins at 7.30pm.

“We're open to everyone who is secondary school age, and whether you come on your own or as part of a youth group we hope you have loads of fun and fellowship. So if this is the beginning of your fourth year or very first time, we can't wait to have you along!”

This is a public event and photos may be taken.

Trinity College renames library

Trinity College Dublin is renaming its main Library after the acclaimed Irish poet Eavan Boland. This decision, said a statement from Trinity, was made by the University Board after a period of research, analysis and public consultation overseen by the Trinity Legacies Review Working Group.

The Eavan Boland Library will be the first building on Trinity's campus to be named after a woman. Eavan Boland, added the statment, was one of the foremost women in Irish literature, publishing many collections of poetry, a memoir *Object Lessons* (1995), as well as teaching and lecturing in Ireland and in the U.S.

It had been decided in April 2023 that the continued use of George Berkeley's name on its main Library was inconsistent with the University's core values of human dignity, freedom, inclusivity, and equality. Since then, its largest Library has been known simply as 'The Library.' In

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September 2024, after a process of deliberation including consideration of the 855 public submissions, the TLRWG identified several options for the renaming of the Library, with their preferred recommendation being The Eavan Boland Library

Derry Journal - Ex-Berkeley Library renamed after Eavan Boland after controversy over slave-owning former Dean of Derry



[<https://www.derryjournal.com/news/people/ex-berkeley-library-renamed-after-eavan-boland-after-controversy-over-slave-owning-former-dean-of-derry-4818405>]

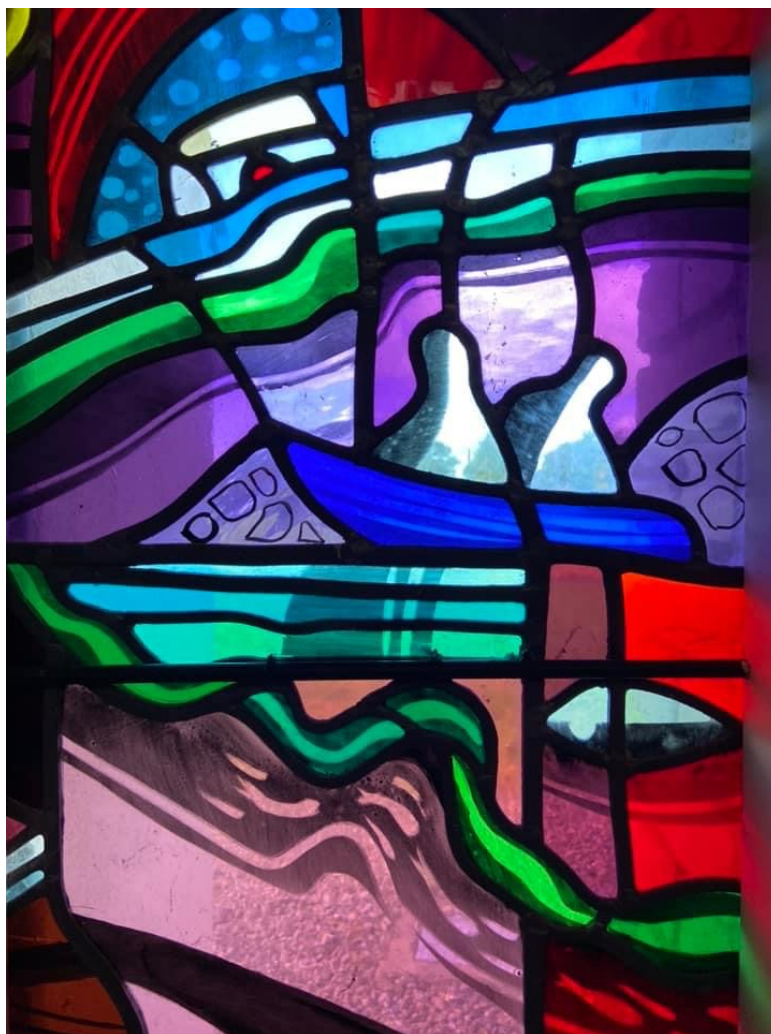
Scottish Episcopal Church will not pursue bullying claims against bishop

The Scottish Episcopal Church has decided to drop claims against Bishop Anne Dyer, the first female Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney.

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Initially suspended in August 2022 due to three complaints, Bishop Dyer was set to face a disciplinary tribunal.

However, the church's independent procurator determined it wasn't in the public interest to proceed, despite the fact there was enough evidence to provide "a realistic prospect of conviction" under the church's canon law, the BBC reports.



Bishop Dyer always denied the allegations of bullying and previously claimed she had faced "significant bullying and harassment" since taking up the role in 2018.

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd6qzzvevqeo>]

Synod participants emphasise role of women in Church mustn't eclipse need to involve all laity

Those taking part in the Synod of Bishops in Rome have emphasised that despite women's ordination

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being removed from this year's discussion there are plenty of important roles that women can fulfil in the Church.

But they have also cautioned that there is an important need to discern potential ways to improve involving all the laity and not to overly focus on the role of women.



Participants were asked on 7 October what other possibilities they saw for women assuming leadership and governance roles that did not involve Holy Orders. It followed Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF), taking the women's diaconate off the table and saying "there is still no room for a positive decision by the Magisterium regarding the access of women to the diaconate".

Sister Mary Teresa Barron, president of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), a global leadership body of women religious, told journalists that "there are

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many good practices from all around the world” which involve women in leadership roles. She noted that one of the members of her Synod group was a woman who served as chancellor for her local diocese.

“We’re actually quite ignorant of what’s possible at the moment,” the Sister said. “There’s a list of the possibilities that exist, and we should share that good practice and learn from each other.”

While she acknowledged that it is easier for women in some cultures to assume leadership roles than it is in other cultures, she emphasised: “I do think within this synod, though, that there is a call to explore more possibilities; what are the other options that are available, even if, for the moment, we might not be looking at ordained ministry.”

Sheila Leocádia Pires, who serves as Communications





Officer for the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference and secretary of the synod's information commission, said she also believes the discussion should be broader, including focusing on laypeople generally and not just women.

“If you look at our discussions today, it has to do with relations, how we

look at the different charisms, for example, how do we use our charisms not for my own personal gain, for the unity of the Church,” she said. What participants in the synod are looking into, Pires said, are “the different gifts that laypeople have, not necessarily just women, but laypeople”.

Holy Land: Young Christians will leave as there is 'no hope' left

Exactly one year on from the October 7th attacks and amid the spiralling conflict that has followed, young Christians in the Holy Land are feeling hopeless and

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looking to leave - so says a Catholic agency helping those in great need.



Photo by [Mohammed Ibrahim](#) on [Unsplash](#)

With job opportunities "scarce" at a time of deepening crisis in the region, "it is very difficult" to give young people hope and encourage them to stay in their homeland, according to Dima Khoury, director of social services at the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

She told Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN): "With no hope, people try to leave."

Father Louis, who leads the Youth of Jesus' Homeland (YJH) ministry in Ain Arik, just outside Ramallah in the West Bank, stressed that life is especially challenging for young Christians there.

Father Louis said: "If the Christians leave, the holy places will be like cold and abandoned museums. We insist to the young people that they do not emigrate, because Jesus lived and died here."

Speaking with ACN, Raffi Ghattas, a member of YJH said: "Our first priority in youth ministry is teaching the young people to belong to their land not because they are Palestinian, but because when God decided to become incarnate, He chose this land. This is a privilege, but it is also a cross. We are bearing this cross."

Father Jonny Abu Khalil, who runs a pastoral centre in Haifa, northern Israel told ACN that local Christians have also been suffering from an identity crisis, adding that "the war [has](#) sparked more separation and discrimination".

He explained: "Palestinians in Galilee used to feel like Israelis, but now they feel like second-class citizens..."

"Their Christian identity is weak, and their national identity is confused - they cannot say they are Palestinians, nor can they say they are Israelis after what happened."

ACN has been supporting the Holy Land's Christian community, many of whom used to work in the tourism sector before most pilgrimages were cancelled because of the conflict.

Methodist Council on Social Responsibility responds to Budget 2025

The Southern Executive of the Council on Social Responsibility of the Methodist Church in Ireland feels that Budget 2025 could have been used as an opportunity for a more targeted addressing of the needs of the most vulnerable.

While we welcome various measures, many of them are too limited and in the form of one-off payments rather than an ongoing increase to enable families to budget for their needs. In particular we are concerned that this budget does not go far enough for families with low incomes, which in turn fails to address child poverty. We are also disappointed by the limited investment in social housing.

We commend the 'Budget Critique and Analysis' by our partner, Social Justice Ireland. We are in broad agreement with their assessment.

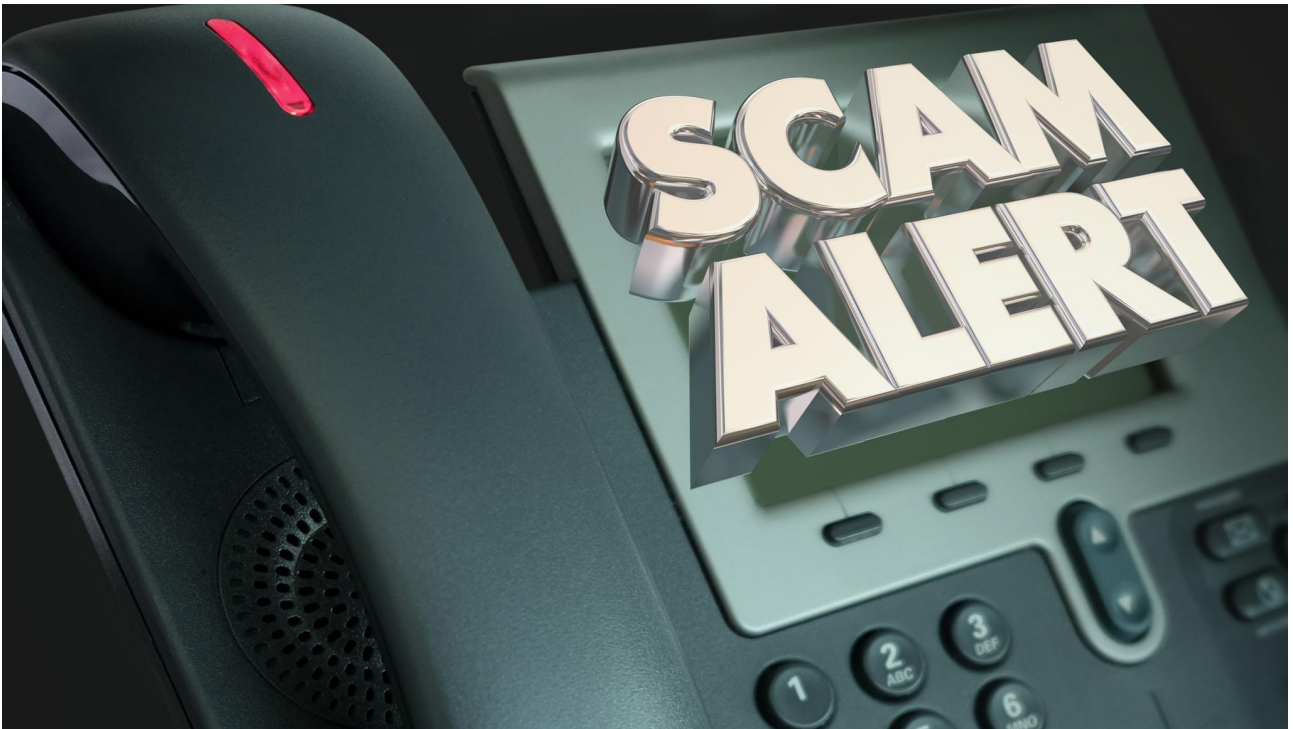
See - <https://www.socialjustice.ie/>

Cathedral Calls

No conning Down Cathedral

Jeff Marshall recounts his experience -

Serving with the Down Cathedral welcome team today I answered an unexpected phone call from a woman claiming to be from BT (British Telecom) who said our internet



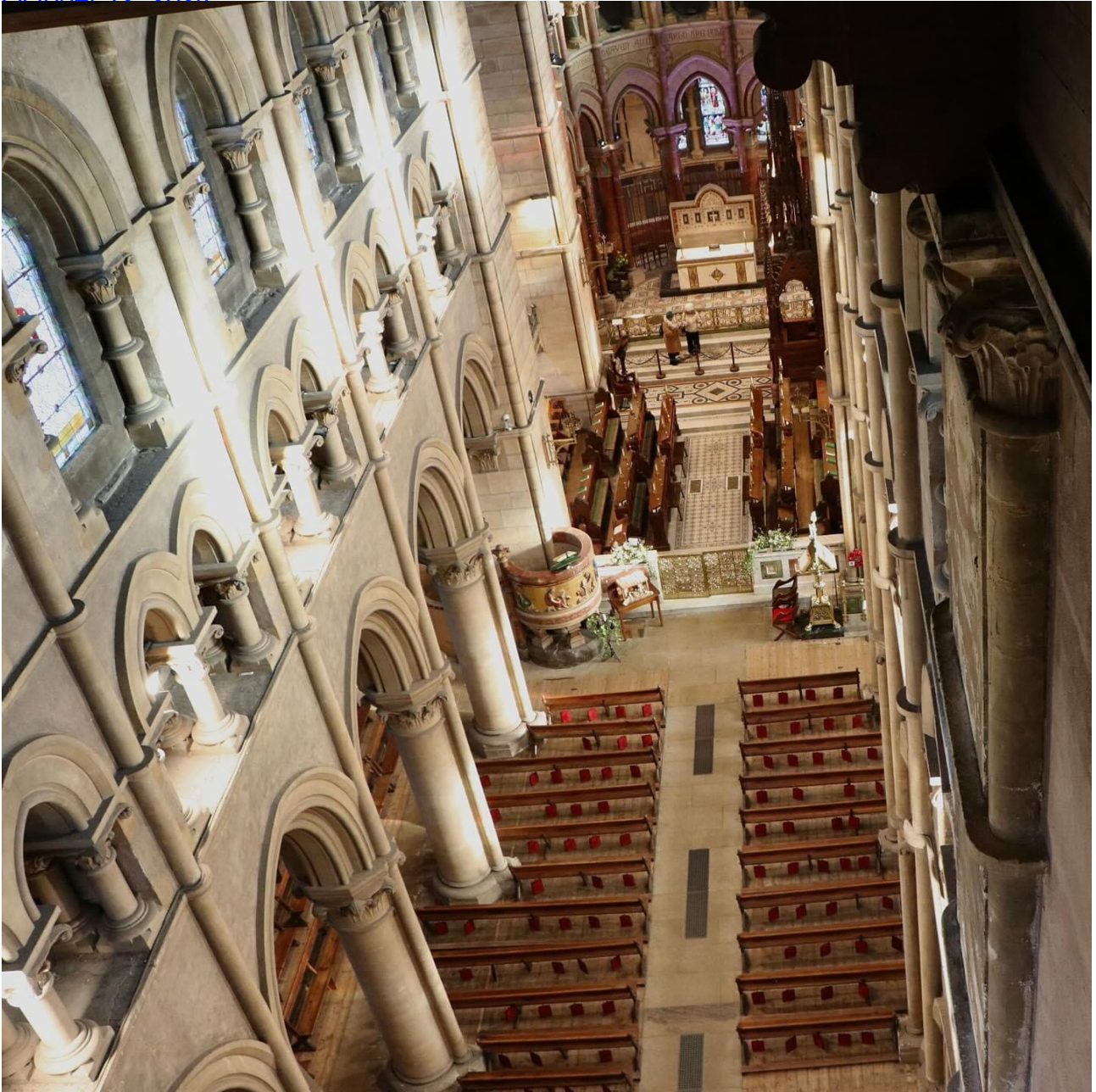
connection had changed from private to public access and it needed to be changed to private.

*It's worth noting that without a public IP address, you can't access the internet. The connection is split into public and private sides, the private side of an IPv4 network can't suddenly change to public.

I responded by informing her that we are not a BT customer and our business telecoms system is managed by Barclay Communications (with download speeds of up to 1000MB/sec).

Undeterred she claimed that we were still using a BT line so it was necessary to check the connection...

Although it would have been interesting to play this one out I said I would contact our telecoms provider directly and promptly hung up. Nb. Phone number withheld.



Not for the faint-hearted though

A rare view from the heady heights of the upper regions. It's great to get a fresh perspective on William Burges' marvellous creation.

This view of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, is not for the faint-hearted though.

Belfast Cathedral tomorrow

“Please join us for our choral services this weekend, which will be led by the lower voices of the Cathedral Choir. Some glorious music to match the autumnal weather!”

Sunday @ 1100 am: CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST

Byrd: Mass for three voices

Wood: View me, Lord

J.S. Bach: Fugue in C minor BWV 537

Sunday @ 330 pm: CHORAL EVENSONG

John Bertalot: Preces and Responses

Sumsion: Evening Service in G

Walker: I will lift up mine eyes

Stanford: Postlude in G Major, Op. 101, No. 5

Clergy and ministry

Pioneering in Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Following the Diocesan Synod in Cork, Cloyne and Ross, during which Bishop Paul Colton specifically spoke about, commended and prioritised Pioneer Ministry in the diocese, he invited Rob to return to the Diocese in the same month, to delve further into the potential and planning for pioneering.

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Rob and Ingrid Brennan spent a day in Cork, leading a workshop for those in the diocese who are already pioneering or interested in what it might look like for them in their specific contexts and diocese. The group consisted of a mixture of lay and ordained leaders.

Discussions revolved around the vision of pioneer ministry as well as how the diocese might release and facilitate new ministries and work in new places. One of the main initial focuses in the diocese will be establishing Diocesan Hubs, which will consist of a group of people to advocate and promote Pioneer Ministry. Work is now beginning within the diocese to discern where these Hubs would be best placed.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Lindsay Chorale at St. Finnian's

The Lindsay Chorale will be coming to entertain on Saturday, 19th October at 7:30pm with their extensive repertoire from sacred, classical, folk, stage musicals and even a little pop music.

Conducted by Keith Acheson and accompanied by St. Finnian's very own Daniel Clements.

Keep the date free - it promises to be a great night's entertainment with a cup of tea served for good measure! Tickets will be available in September from our

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Glebewarden Karen Gately at a cost of £15. All proceeds will go to St. Finnian's Parish Church.



Man in black

The redemptive story of one of Country & Western music's biggest names will be brought to life through songs in Derg Parish Church, Derry and Raphoe, on Thursday 24th October.

Evangelist and musician David Kelly will perform his 'Man in Black' show, featuring the music of the late and legendary Johnny Cash.

The performance will begin at 7.30pm and seasonal refreshments will be served afterwards. Donations to the Derg Parish Future Fund will be greatly appreciated.

Ulster-Scots agency has over 40 free publications on its website

“From history to culture, music tuition to poetry, we have produced many resources that you can access for free to learn about the various aspects of Ulster-Scots culture”.

You can find them all here:

<https://ulster-scots.com/publications/>

We also have a great web shop where you can find many great books and gifts!

Presbyterian Women - Recordings of Entrusted to Share event now available

“It was great to see so many of you at our recent Autumn Event, Entrusted to Share. If you were unable to attend, you can access the recordings of the Main talks by Kate Patterson and the special seminar speakers; Gill Gourley and Billy and Jean McClune. Enjoy”.

To access go to: <https://www.presbyterianireland.org/pw/PW-Conference-Recordings.aspx>

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Posted early Monday to Saturday

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