

Church News Ireland

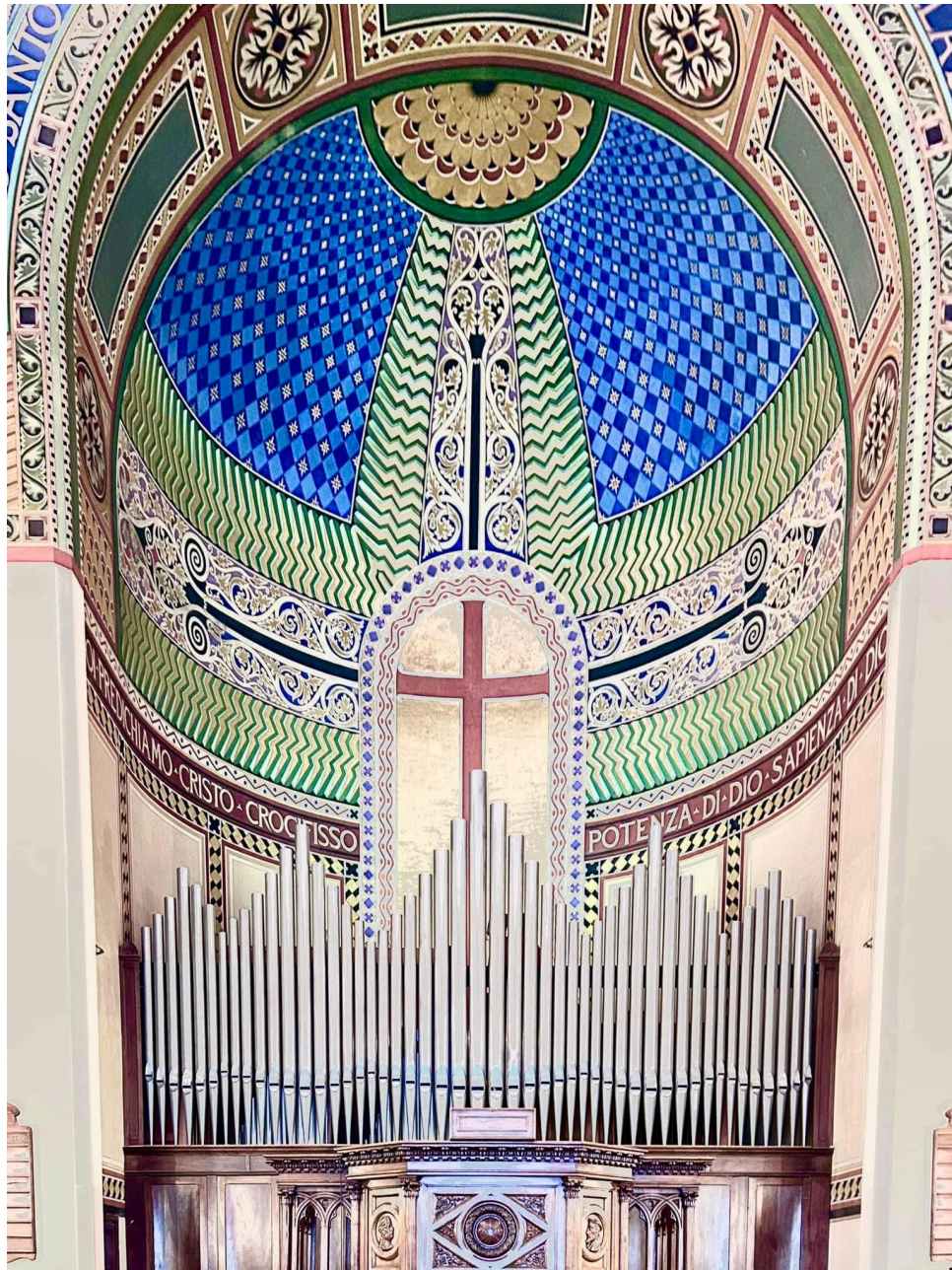


Image of the day – Rome focus of Irish churches

Image of the day



Rome focus of Irish churches



A service was led by the Church Leaders Group (Ireland) at the Chiesa Evangelica Valdese - Unione delle chiese

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metodiste e valdesi church in Piazza Cavour, Rome, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

The church leaders represented the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, The Methodist Church in Ireland and Churches in Ireland.

Mark Simpson BBC tweeted a photograph and commented, "Inside the Vatican. Irish Catholic & Protestant church leaders. Picture via UK Ambassador @ChrisTrott shows how far relations have travelled in recent years."

People and places

Bibles for Babies volunteers Bible Society NI

"We spent a wonderful afternoon celebrating our Bibles for Babies volunteers today. Each week these incredible people pack Bibles, write cards and send them away to families all over Northern Ireland. We truly couldn't do it without them".

Ecumenical fries in Killylea

There was no need to cook breakfast in Killylea yesterday. "We are holding our big breakfast on Saturday 7th October and the Methodist Church are having one this coming Saturday 30th September. Come along, get your breakfast sat down to you!"



New church hall in Tobermore is a miracle

The Rector of the Parish of Kilcronaghan, Rev Rosie Diffin, described today as "a day of joy and gratitude and hope" as the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, cut the ribbon to officially open the congregation's new church hall in Tobermore.

The parishioners beamed with pride as they got their first glimpse of the building, whose restoration was only completed in the last few days.

The Rector paid an emotional tribute to her parishioners for their efforts to make their dream a reality. "You know, you've worked long and hard to get to this point - it's over 20 years - and this building is a real credit to you as a parish. So,

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don't rush home. Take time to go round and own it and see this beautiful new church hall that you now own. "Only last Saturday, someone came and stood in that doorway back there," the Rector said, "and they said to me, 'Rosie, this is a miracle, this is a miracle.'





"You know, it really is a miracle. God has so richly blessed all that we've offered back to him. So, finally, after more than 20 years, we come to this, what really is a remarkable day in the life of our congregation - a day that is filled with joy and gratitude and hope as we gather here in this beautiful new church hall.

Bishop Andrew confessed that as recently as a fortnight ago he had doubted that the new hall would be opened on schedule, "so forgive me my lack of faith," he said, "and well done all of you for working so hard to make sure this hall was finished. It is simply wonderful - it is absolutely wonderful.

"This says a lot about the family of God here in Kilcronaghan Parish and about your vision, and your commitment and your desire to serve.

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"It says that you want to have a church and a parish that is filled with activity and I pray that this hall will be filled with activity, that it will be filled with young people and old people, that people will want to come to it, that the doors will be wide enough to welcome all, and that it will be a place where God's kingdom is built up, the family of God blessed, and that people will come here and feel at home here."

Bishop Andrew paid tribute to the long-term vision of the parishioners. "Isn't it brilliant," he said, "that we are sitting here this afternoon and there are babies in this hall? They will grow into children who will use this hall and into adults who will use this hall long after a lot of us have gone, and that says a lot about your vision, that you weren't content just to have something for the here and now, but you want to build for the future - for generations that are to come. I want to say, 'Well done,' to that."

The new hall was packed for the opening service. Hymns were sung by the parish's ladies choir and its men's choir, and afterwards the congregation enjoyed a celebratory cream tea.

The Rector and the Bishop then cut a substantial cake - baked and decorated specially for the occasion - and the cake was shared among the parishioners and visiting friends.

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Scouting for Strangford

Did you spot Becky and Billy on Saturday in Ards Shopping centre helping with the Strangford District Recruitment Drive?

Looking to volunteer and want to know more contact the District Commissioner

Danielle on Dc.Strangford@countydownscouts.org.uk

Treading New Ground – Meath and Kildare Diocesan Synod

The 2023 Diocesan Synod for Meath and Kildare was held in the Oak Centre, Dunboyne on Saturday 30 September. It was chaired by Bishop Pat Storey.

In her opening remarks Bishop Storey thanked everyone for taking the time to represent their parishes, saying: “Whilst it is our equivalent of an AGM, we are not here just to do business – first and foremost we are a community of faith.



We have business to do – and we have to look after our properties and our finances, but the reason that we do that is primarily because we are followers of Jesus Christ, and we are in God’s hands as we go.”

She talked of the need to create “the best conditions in which growth can happen”, alluding to the presence of Rev Rob Jones and Canon Barry Forde at the synod, who were there to talk about the “about the new emphasis and impetus of Pioneer Ministry on the whole Church of Ireland”.

Pioneer Ministry

Continuing, she said: “Pioneer ministry is one strand of ministry – best worked out alongside traditional ministry and with the enthusiastic support of the local clergy. Pioneer ministry is about trying new things. It is a risk, and its

emphasis is on those who aren't sitting in the pews, rather than those who already are. The pioneer seeks to welcome, awaken and integrate the newcomer and the person who perhaps does not yet have faith, and in order to do that, we have to try different avenues.”

1500th anniversary of St Brigid

Bishop Pat highlighted one of the pioneer initiatives taking place in the diocese, with St Brigid's Cathedral in Kildare celebrating the 1500th anniversary of St Brigid – opening up the cathedral and welcoming visitors, seekers, and spiritual pilgrims. She also said, “If you or your parish would be interested in a similar new initiative, there is money, training and resources available through Pioneer Ministry.”

A number of new members of the diocese were welcomed, including: Dean Isobel Jackson and Kelley Bermingham (Kildare and Newbridge), as well as Craig McCauley (Naas), and Mike Buchanan joining John Clarke in Navan. Good wishes were also expressed to Eugene and Joanna Griffin who have moved from Dunboyne and Rathmolyon to Kinsale.

Financial challenges

Talking of the financial challenges over the last few years and particularly during and after the pandemic, Bishop Pat expressed a “sincere thank you to all of you who have worked hard and given generously to your parishes ... It is thanks to our churchgoing people, who love their church and their Saviour, who are making going forward with hope possible.”

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Turning to education Bishop Pat expressed appreciation for Frank Milling, in his first year as principal of Wilson’s Hospital school, and to all the principals and teachers of national schools across the dioceses who do wonderful work with our children.

She also thanked all the clergy, Karen Seaman (Diocesan Secretary) and archdeacon Leslie Stevenson for all they do for the dioceses, and to ever person present for all they do to “make the dioceses work”. Appreciation was also expressed for the particular contributions of a wide range of people within the dioceses, including members of the synod itself.

To read the full text of the Bishop’s speech, click on the link below:

[\[https://meathandkildare.org/news/treading-new-ground-diocesan-synod-2023/\]](https://meathandkildare.org/news/treading-new-ground-diocesan-synod-2023/)



60 yrs of Sion Mills “new Chapel”

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Sunday 1st October saw St Theresa's in Sion Mills celebrate 60 yrs of the “new Chapel”. It was also the Feast of St Therese .

“...As a Parish we came together to celebrate this milestone by having a special Mass at 6pm, and there was also some refreshments in the Bog hall afterwards ,again everyone is welcome...”

New Archdeacons in Down & Dromore

Thee Bishop of Down & Dromore, Rt Rev D McClay announced that Canon Mark Harvey had accepted his invitation to become the next Archdeacon of Dromore and Revd Jim Cheshire to become the next Archdeacon of Down.

Bishop McClay said, “The role of an archdeacon is often demanding as they ‘aid and assist the bishop in the bishop’s pastoral care and office’. Both archdeacons will be released from parish ministry for two days each week to carry out diocesan work.

“In his role as archdeacon, Canon Mark Harvey will have a specific brief which will be to assist me in enabling parishes that have been on a trajectory of decline to be rejuvenated, and to transition from decline to growth. Mark has considerable experience in growing churches and has worked in different parish settings – inner city, urban and rural. He is ably equipped to help the diocese with this essential focus in these days when Christendom is in decline in our western culture”.



He continued, “Revd Jim Cheshire (photo left) in his role as archdeacon will assist me in matters specific to enabling evangelism and outreach to become embedded in our parochial and diocesan life. I want our parishes and church plants to regularly see people of all ages come to Christ and be added to his church. Jim brings to this task years of expertise and a proven track record as an evangelist. He has led the parish of St Mary’s, Ballybeen, into new and very effective outreach initiatives and the church is growing as people from outside come to Christ in saving faith”.

The Ven Jim Cheshire is originally from the United States. He experienced God’s call on his life for ministry as a teen growing up in Florida. Following his undergraduate education at the University of Florida, he gained his Master of Divinity degree from Gordon–Conwell Theological Seminary, Massachusetts. In 1999, Jim married Diane, who is from Coleraine, and moved to Northern Ireland where they set up home together. Since then, Jim has ministered pastorally in a variety of denominational contexts, first in Bangor and then East

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Belfast before being called to serve as Leader of Discipleship for Holywood Parish in 2009.

“It was while I was in Holywood that, to my surprise, I found my heart ‘strangely warmed’ and opened to a future in the Church of Ireland in a way I had not expected but could not avoid.”

Following his ordination in 2014, Jim served his curacy in Bangor Parish before being instituted as the Rector of Ballybeen in 2018. During the course of his ministry he has also served as an OLM Tutor, on Diocesan Council, as a member of General Synod, and on Standing Committee.



Christ Church, Bray

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“Having served my whole ordained ministry in the Diocese of Down, and having known Bishop David for most of that time, I was delightfully surprised to be asked but deeply honoured to accept his invitation to be the next Archdeacon of Down. I’ve always respected Bishop David for his godly leadership, and I share his passion for Spirit-led mission and ministry and for seeing transformation and renewal in the lives of people, parishes, the diocese and our land through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I look forward to assisting him in seeing his vision for the diocese become an increasing reality.”

Jim and Diane have two adult children, Eva and Ethan. In his spare time Jim enjoys going for walks with Diane, reading a good book, listening to music, drinking coffee and going to the gym.

The Archdeacon of Dromore, The Ven Mark Harvey who is originally from Belfast, grew up in a rectory.

First sensing a call to ministry at the age of 17, he was ordained in 1993 for the curacy of St Columba’s, Portadown in Armagh diocese, and from 1996–2001 was rector of Monaghan in the diocese of Clogher. He spent four years on the staff of CMS Ireland, and in 2005 became rector of St Mary’s, Ballybeen. He was instituted as rector of Shankill, Lurgan, in June 2017.

Mark has served the diocese as Director of Ordinands, as a Clerical Honorary Secretary of Diocesan Council, and as Area Dean of Loughview. He has also been a member of both Diocesan Council and General Synod for over 20 years.

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He is married to Joanne, and they have one daughter, Lydia. Prior to ordination, he worked as a primary school teacher in Bangor.

“I am both humbled and delighted to accept Bishop David’s invitation to become Archdeacon of Dromore. We have known each other well for 25 years and we have worked closely at both parochial and diocesan level. I am excited to assist him, along with the Archdeacon of Down and the diocesan team,



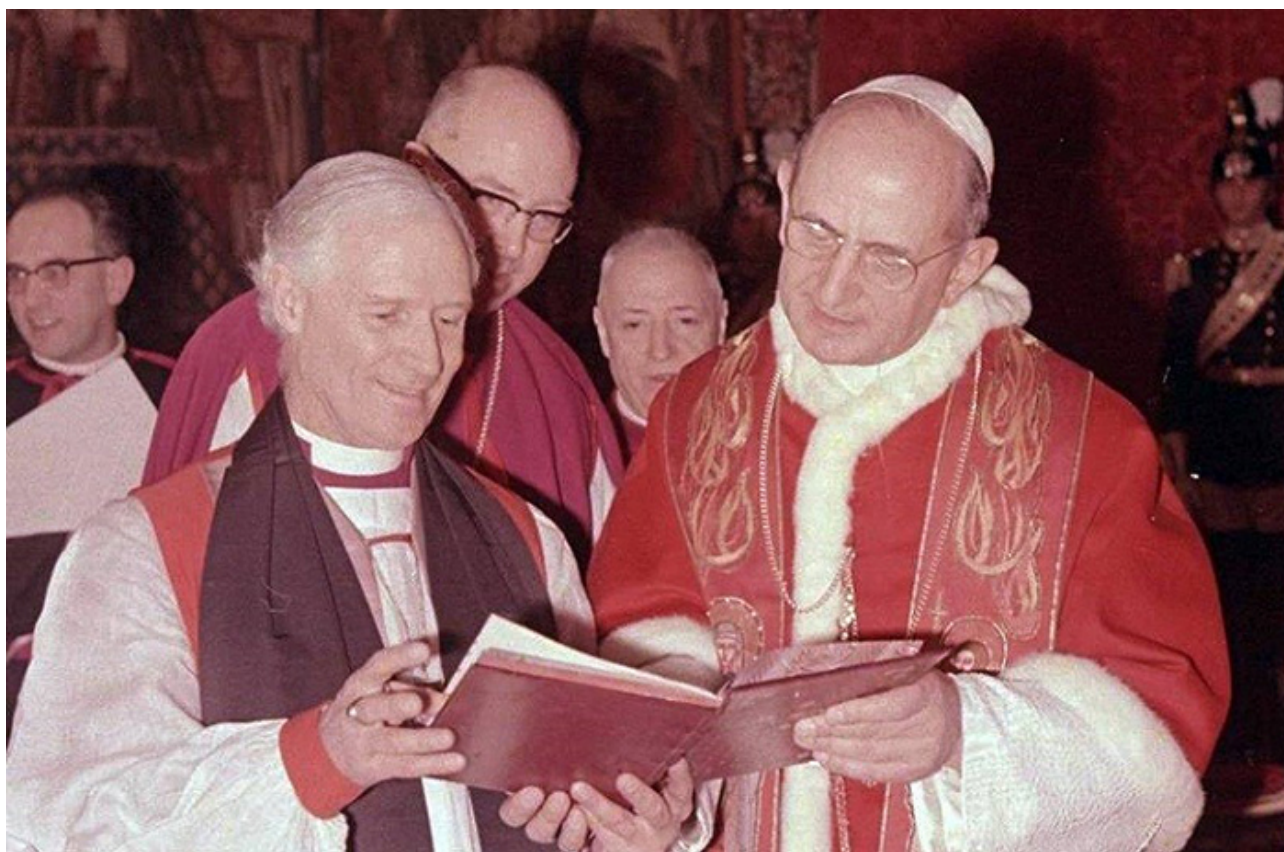
Congratulations to Isla O’Halloran who was on duty yesterday as Crucifer for the first time in a packed St Andrew’s Church in the Church of Ireland’s, United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock & St. Doulagh's for Harvest.

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in fulfilling God’s call on us to be a missional church in our generation. It will be an immense privilege and challenge to help enable our parishes to respond to the bishop’s vision of discipleship, leadership, and apostleship in their own context, and to seeing vibrant local churches reaching their communities with the life–changing Gospel of Christ throughout our diocese.”

News reports

Anglican Centre in Rome celebrates 50th anniversary of the John Moorman Library



Bishop John Moorman, who created the library at the Anglican Centre in Rome, was a keen ecumenist. Here, he is pictured with Pope Paul VI during the Second Vatican Council. Photo Credit: The Vatican

The Anglican Centre in Rome is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its famous John Moorman Library with an exhibition of some of its most treasured items.

The exhibition, which was opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, Saturday 30 September highlights the library's ecumenical missionary endeavours.

The exhibition will include new artworks commissioned for the anniversary and inspired by the library's rich history and collection.

The Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, Archbishop Ian Ernest, said: "this exhibition is made up of the library's most treasured material, along with contributions of created artworks by international artists inspired by the library's history and collection, highlighting the Anglican Centre's ecumenical missionary endeavours and bearing witness to the quest of God's people on their journey towards unity."

John Moorman was Bishop of Leeds in the Church of England from 1959 until his retirement in 1975. A committed ecumenist, he was a frequent visitor to the Vatican, and led the Anglican delegation invited to observe the Second Vatican Council. In 1967 he was appointed Chairman of the Anglican commission that led to the creation of ARCIC – the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission. He remained a member of ARCIC until 1981. He died eight years later, at the age of 84.

The library at the Anglican Centre in Rome was effectively created by John Moorman. He arranged for its installation in the Doria-Pamphilj Palace, which has been home to the

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ACR for the past 50 years, and also appealed to publishers, communities, authors, and friends to donate material, enlisting the help of competent scholars to monitor accessions and receive donations, including 189 books from the late Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, bequeathed by his wife.

Today, the library is widely recognised as one of the largest collections in Europe dedicated to the Anglican tradition, history, culture, and ecumenism.

As part of the exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to explore contributions and artworks from worldwide collaborators, including notable institutions such as the Virginia Theological Seminary, Saint Michael's Parish in Dallas, the Venerable English College, Centro Pro Uniole, the Lambeth Palace Library, Gladstone's Library, and Ripon Cathedral.

“Through a carefully curated selection of themes, events, and personalities associated with the Centre's history and library collection, visitors will have the opportunity to unearth an array of treasures”, the ACR said in a statement. “These treasures include letters of historical significance, autographed books, captivating photographs, exquisite artworks, and much more, all of which bear witness to the profound journey towards unity undertaken by God's people.”

Archbishop Ian Ernest said: “the library is a rich legacy of gems and treasures that can inspire future generations. My deepest gratitude is extended towards all those who have worked relentlessly to create what we hope will be a historic

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exhibition. My desire is that the legacy of the exhibition might go some way to raise the profile of Bishop John Moorman's ecumenical vision, highlight the resource of the John Moorman Library, and further the missionary endeavors of the Anglican Centre, Rome, both today and for generations to come.

“Our commitment to fostering understanding and unity among diverse communities, both within the Anglican tradition and beyond, remains unwavering.”

The opening of the exhibition coincides with Pope Francis' ecumenical prayer event, Together, which took place in Saint Peter's Square.

Heritage

Ernest Walton 1903 -1995

Nuclear Scientist and Nobel Prize Laureate

Professor E.T.S. Walton is the only Irish born scientist to win a scientific Nobel Prize. Born in Dungarvan, Co Waterford, Walton was the son of a Methodist minister who later moved north. Ernest was educated at Methodist College, Belfast ('Methody') from 1915 until 1922, where he was Headboy - his future wife Freda Wilson from Castlereagh, was the Headgirl in the same year. Excellent exam results at Methody took Walton to Trinity College, Dublin, where he attained a Double First in Mathematics and Experimental Science in 1926.

An ensuing scholarship took him to Cambridge University, where he collaborated with John Cockcroft in building a linear accelerator which could accelerate protons to energies of 700,000 electron volts. With this apparatus they split the atom in 1932.

In 1934, Walton received a fellowship from Trinity College, Dublin, and in 1946 he was appointed as a Professor; a position he held until 1974. Walton's further experiments verified Einstein's Theory of Relativity. The apparatus used (now housed in the British Museum) was primitive making this landmark in Physics even more laudable. In 1951, Walton and Cockcroft jointly received the Nobel Prize for Physics for their ground breaking endeavors.

Interestingly, Walton had been pressed to join an unidentified military project in 1944, but Trinity refused to release him. It emerged later as the Manhattan Project to develop the nuclear bomb. Walton, a man of deep religious convictions, was relieved not to have been involved.

Walton had a reputation as an excellent tutor, and made every effort to help his students. He retired in 1974, but continued to work in the Physics Department of the University before moving back to Belfast in 1993. The previous year. Methody - where he was on the board of Governors for many years - named its new science and technology building in his honour; a fine bronze bas relief of Walton, showing the famous energy - equation, was erected on the Walton Building. Walton died in Belfast on 25th June 1995. Predeceased by his wife, he left two sons and three daughters.

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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
