

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Tullamore's tour of the north**

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Tullamore College's tour of the north

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

# Image of the day



## Tullamore College's tour of the north

**Senior Cycle History and Geography students visited Northern Ireland last week.**

They visited Derry, where a walking history tour brought them around the medieval walls of the city. They also visited



the Museum of Free Derry and Siege Museum at Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall, where they learned of the different identities of the people of the city.

They explored the ancient volcanic site of the Giant's Causeway. In Belfast, students visited the Titanic Museum, Crumlin Road Gaol, and had a guided bus tour of the city where they had the opportunity to sign the peace wall. Thanks to Mr Feighery, Ms Bradley and Mr Quirke for organising the trip.

# News



## Changing Attitude Ireland celebrates with Bishop Walton Empey

**“It was a pleasure to visit our patron, Bishop Walton Empey today to celebrate his 90th birthday and to thank him for his support and allyship of Changing Attitude Ireland.”**

Pictured (l-r) Canon Ginnie Kennerley, Bishop Walton Empey and Mark Bowyer, who presented a gift on behalf of the Changing Attitude Ireland committee.



ALL SOULS CHURCH  
STANDS WITH  
REV KATHERINE MEYER



## **All Souls Church: An Inclusive Church saddened by censure of Presbyterian minister**

All Souls, Belfast stated - We are saddened that Reverend Dr. Katherine Meyer, has been formally censured by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) for her involvement in a Pride service broadcast by RTÉ.

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We stand in solidarity and prayer with Rev Dr Katherine Meyer following this announcement and affirm our unwavering support for her inclusive and loving ministry.

## Monkstown Schoolhouse returns to heart of village



**A new chapter in the history of Monkstown was celebrated on Sunday October 27 as Monkstown Schoolhouse was returned to its**



## **rightful place in the heart of the village.**

The painstakingly and handsomely restored Georgian building was officially opened and rededicated following the Parish Eucharist.

The school closed on December 31 1986 and after a number of alternative iterations, the building fell into disrepair. Attempts over many years to explore other uses for the schoolhouse met insurmountable obstacles but when Canon Roy Byrne arrived as the new Rector of Monkstown in 2016, he turned his sights on it.

After much work to resolve ownership issues, plans were drawn up, planning permission secured and work began in December 2021. Further obstacles ensued – the knock on effects of Brexit, Covid 19 and the Russian Ukraine war,



with the associated problems of material shortages and



spiralling cost increases.

The building comprises the beautifully restored schoolroom which contains numerous school photographs and other artifacts which were recovered or donated by the community. Further artifacts were donated by the Revd Prof Anne Lodge from the Plunkett Museum of Irish Education. A classroom which was built on in the 1960s has been converted into a coffee dock. A living space has been recreated on the first floor. An eco-friendly garden now occupies the area which was once the schoolyard. "It wasn't easy. It was a nightmare with sleepless nights, terrible worry, unremitting frustration but something kept us all going. Here we are today surrounded by you, our friends, in a building filled with memories celebrating the past, looking forward to the future, proud, delighted and slightly humbled if the truth be told," Canon Byrne told the gathered crowd, which

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included past pupils, in the beautifully restored schoolroom.  
Monkstown Parish Church, Dublin

You can read longer account on the diocesan web site:  
<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/10/28/past-present-and-future-come>



## **Tanzanian Bishop felt warmth of welcome during his week-long visit to the Northwest**

**The Bishop of Kondoa in Tanzania has thanked people here for the warmth of their welcome during his week-long visit to the Northwest to initiate a five-year mission**

## **link between his diocese and the Diocese of Derry & Raphoe.**

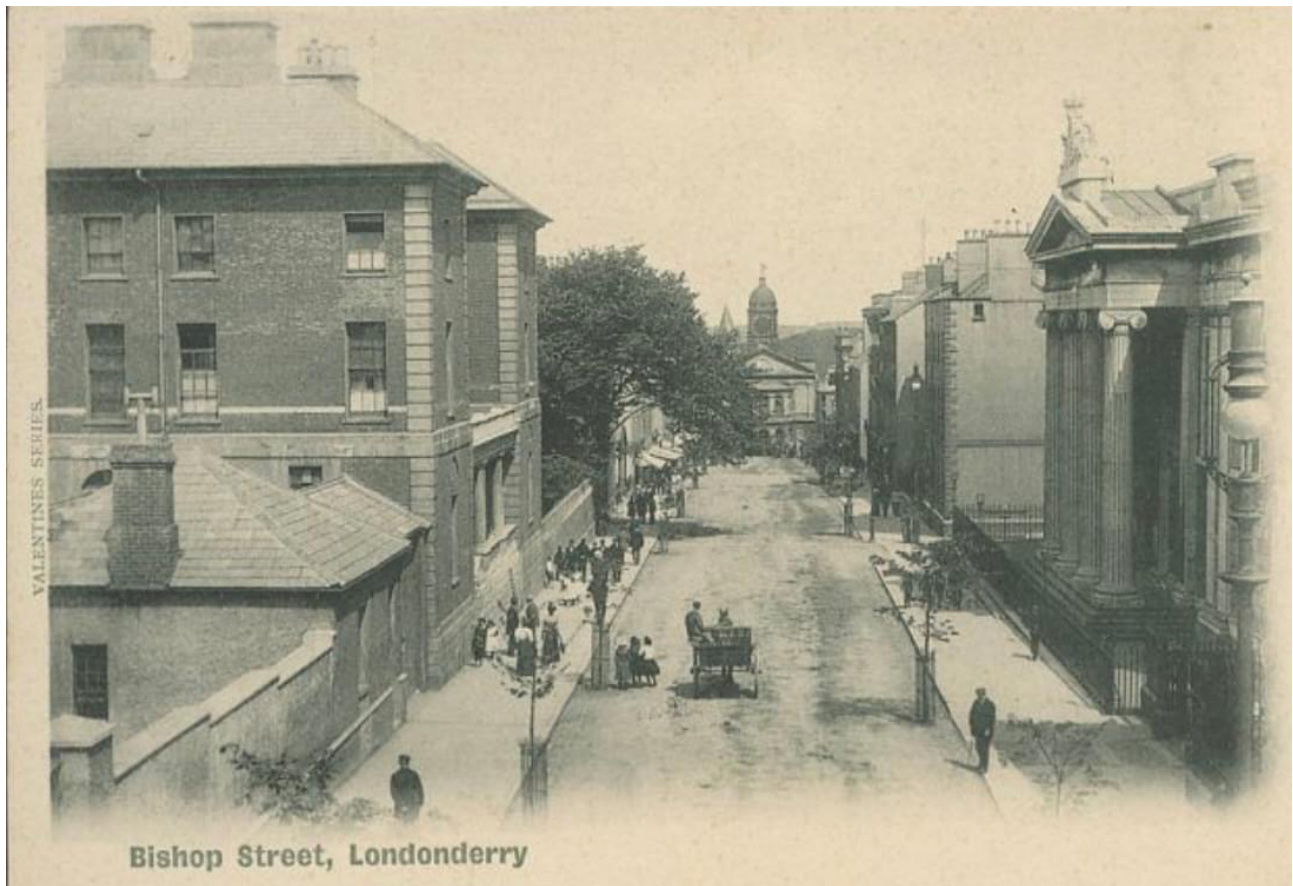
Most Rev Dr Given Gaula was speaking in St Eunan's Cathedral in Raphoe where he preached the first of two sermons at a Service of Evening Prayer to launch the new partnership agreement. The companionship link could see groups and individuals from each diocese visiting each other to witness and share in work for the Kingdom, and supporting one another through prayer, resources and skilled personnel.

During this evening's service, Bishop Andrew Forster presented Bishop Given with a pectoral cross, cut from the same piece of ancient bog oak as the cross he himself wears. The crosses were carved by the Bishop's Curate of the Ardara Group of Parishes, Rev Robert Wray.

"What I hope," Bishop Andrew told Dr Gaula, "is that whenever you wear this cross, it will remind you to pray for us." Pointing to his own cross, he said, "Whenever I wear this cross it will remind me that your cross is made from the same piece of wood, and I will pray for you. And it reminds us that even though we come from very different parts of the world we are children of God, we are one in Christ."

Rev Wray presented Bishop Given with a larger cross, too, to place on his desk in Kondoia. It was a gift from the clergy of Derry & Raphoe.

Clergy and parishioners travelled from far and wide across the Diocese of Derry & Raphoe to attend the Launch Service, including from Macosquin, Ballyshannon, Omagh,



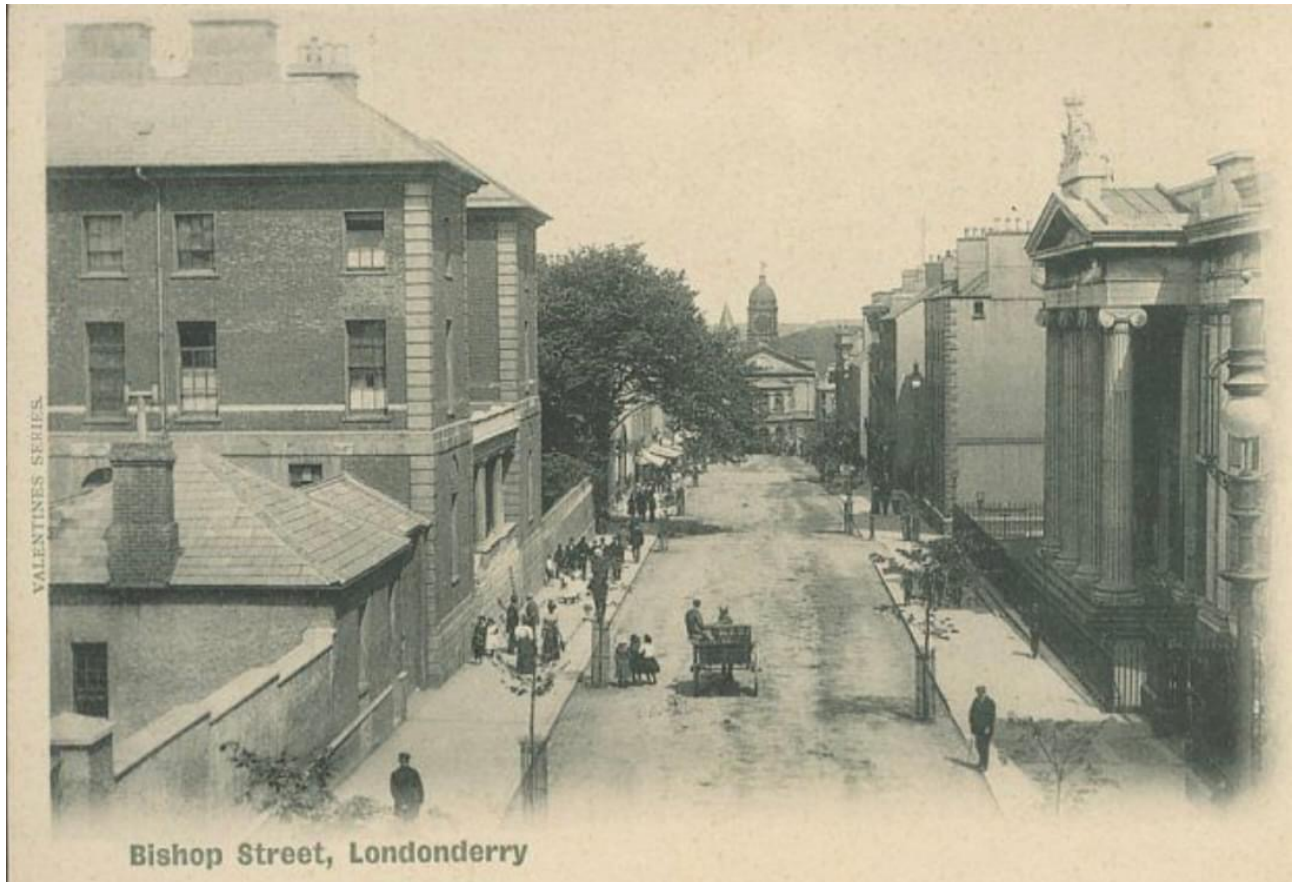
Fanad, Dunfanaghy, Inver, Faughanvale, Donegal, Moville, Limavady and Londonderry.

The service was led by the Dean of Raphoe, Very Rev Liz Fitzgerald, who was assisted by the Archdeacon of Raphoe, Ven. David Huss, and members of the Cathedral Chapter, Rev Canon Mervyn Peoples and Canon Brian Russell who read from Scripture. Archdeacon Huss led the prayers. Music was provided by members of the Cathedral choir, accompanied by church organist Renee Goudie.

Sermon texts at -

<https://www.facebook.com/528414856142420/posts/872763391707563>

# Cathedral Calls



## Bishop Street, Derry

**Here we have an image possibly about 1900 is of Bishop St, looking towards the Diamond and old Corporation Hall.**

On left is the Bishop's palace built about 1750s and remodelled by the Earl Bishop Hervey in the 1770s. On right is the courthouse of 1817 modelled on the Greek Temple of Erechtheus. In the Diamond sits the old Town Hall damaged by the Austin's fire in 1903 and demolished in 1910. Bishop St Without remains a fine street with several attractive buildings. Thanks to Joseph Keys for sharing this image.

## Was Robert Willis the last of the great deans?

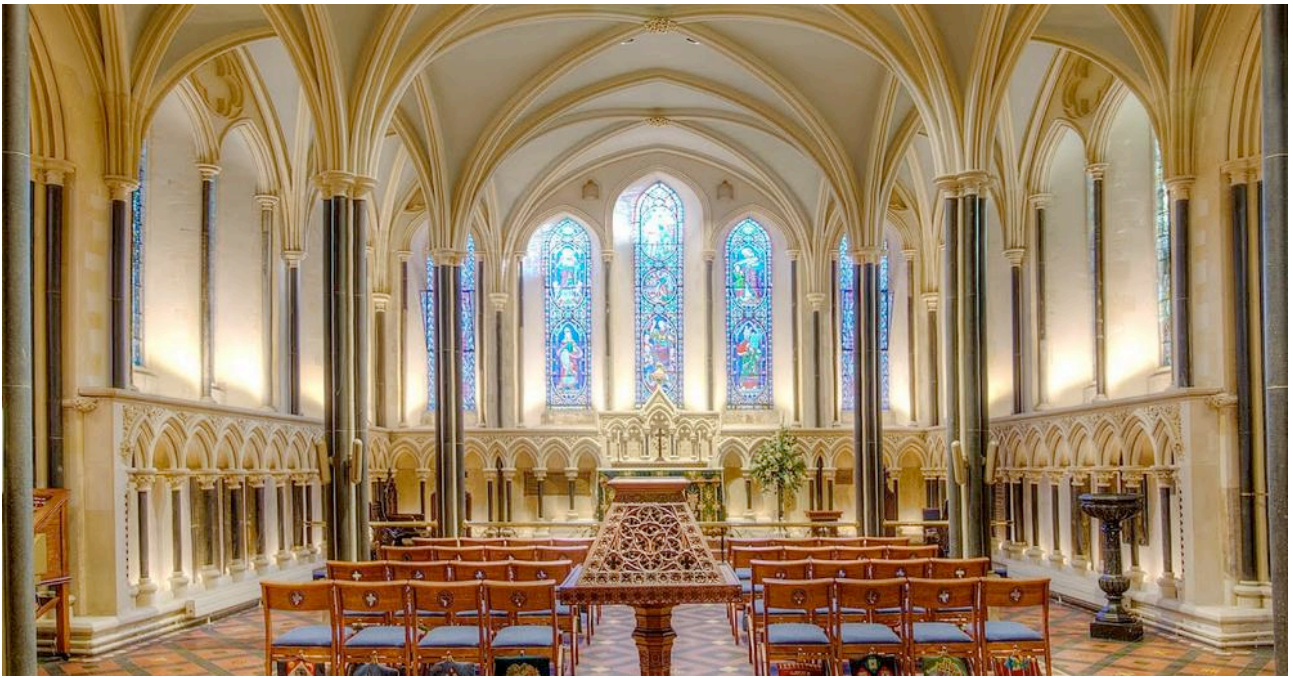
**People often imagine that bishops run their cathedrals. This is not so, especially in the Church of England. Cathedrals are run by their deans, Charles Moore writes in the Daily Telegraph.**

Woe betide the bishop who does not respect that fact. If you are impressed (or unimpressed) by the worship, preaching, music, or art in a cathedral, thank (or complain to) the dean.

Last week, Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury cathedral for 21 years, died. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, described him as “a great dean”. This was magnanimous, since the two men sometimes disagreed, but also true. The danger is that Robert Willis may prove to have been the last great dean.

A great dean has an almost unreasonable devotion to his cathedral, its beauty, history, liturgical order and its pastoral power. This Dean Robert had. The spirit of the age is that occupants of such posts must have a compliance-focused attitude to management. This Dean Robert lacked.

Tall, imposing, yet gentle, Robert Willis possessed the right physical presence. His voice was mellifluous, and he could preach in perfect sentences without need of notes, relating current events to a biblical text without strain, triviality or over-personalisation. He also composed hymns.



## St Patrick's Huguenots

Tales from Our Timeline

[https://www.youtube.com/results?](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=St+Patrick%E2%80%99s+Huguenots+)

[search\\_query=St+Patrick%E2%80%99s+Huguenots+](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=St+Patrick%E2%80%99s+Huguenots+)

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He understood how the mute stones of the uniquely important cathedral which he loved so dearly could be made to speak. Being shown round it by him (as I was), especially in the evening after the crowds had departed, was not only a wonderful history lesson but a spiritual inspiration.

Robert's sense of place extended beyond the cathedral to the buildings which cluster round it, especially to the deanery and its garden. He was the last dean to have lived in the whole of the deanery (the present dean having only a flat there). This led to extravagance, perhaps, but it helped visitors understand that a cathedral is a complex, multiple home where people live real lives, rather than just an expensive old building with lots of offices attached. The welcome he offered to all there was truly Christian.

Dean Robert was an old-fashioned figure, but his authenticity and care for Canterbury made him a worldwide internet sensation during Covid. Locked out of the cathedral by the plague restrictions, he broadcast daily prayers and meditations to what quickly became known as the “Garden Congregation” online. They usually came from the deanery garden tended by his partner Fletcher Banner.

There is a funny one on YouTube. As Dean Robert sits and speaks beside the teapot against the old stone wall, his cat busily helps himself to the contents of the milk jug. Somehow this comedy does not undermine the serious immediacy of the message.

The Dean quotes Psalm 95, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” He repeats the word “today” to emphasise how, as Covid shows, things can come suddenly upon us. Good or ill, they should be accepted, because the love of God can come that way. By this time, the milk-jug is almost empty, but the viewer’s heart is full.

Robert hated injustice and knew that it can be done to the dead as well as the living. While he was at Canterbury, posthumous accusations of child sex abuse were made against one of his predecessors, George Bell, later the courageous wartime Bishop of Chichester.

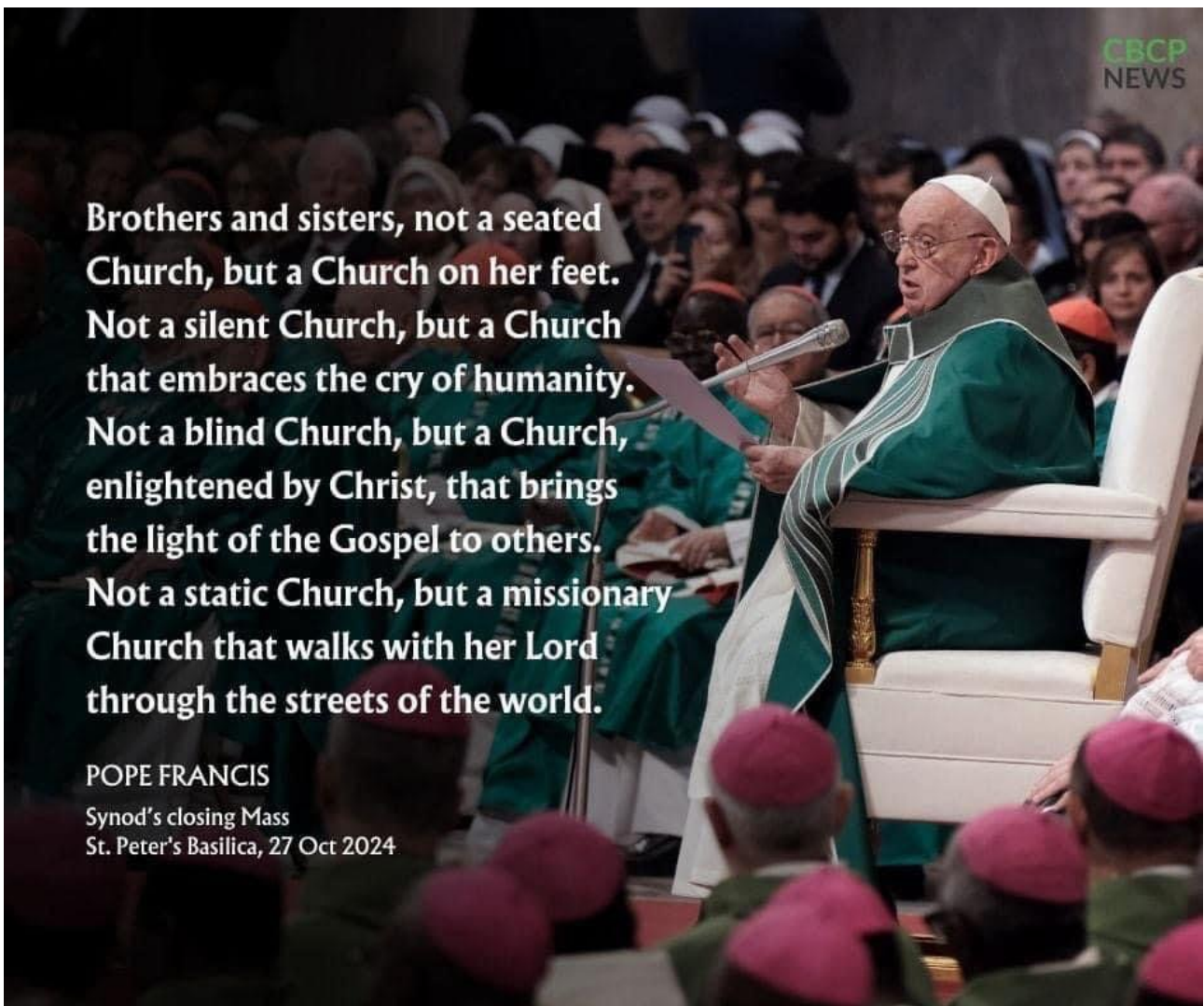
These were credulously accepted by the church authorities without proper evidence. Robert was sure they were untrue and was later proved right. He had already commissioned a sculpture of Bell to be placed on the West Wall of the cathedral but had reluctantly to delay it while the



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controversy raged. It remains in the Sturry stonemason's yard, with Bell's face unfinished.

Perhaps it should now be displayed in that form to remind everyone of how wrongly people can be judged. And perhaps there should be another niche in the same wall for Robert Willis.



## Clergy and ministry

## Portrush anniversary



**The Feast of St Simon & St Jude this year also marked the 19th Anniversary of the Rector's Institution. Canon Peter McDowell and a photo from the Service of Institution.**

In the photo are:

Mary Boreland, People's Churchwarden,

the Preacher the Venerable Adrian Wilkinson, Archdeacon of Cork (later Bishop of Cashel & Ossory),

the Venerable Patrick Rooke, Archdeacon of Dalriada (later Bishop of Tuam),

the Right Reverend Alan Harper, Bishop of Connor (later Archbishop of Armagh),

the Very Reverend John Bond, Dean of Connor,

the Reverend Canon Robin Lavery, Rural Dean,

the Reverend Canon Edgar Turner, Registrar of the Diocese of Connor

and Dennis Melville, Rector's Churchwarden.

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## St Ann's Recital - Thérèse Fahy Debussy Preludes Book 1

**St Ann's Church, 18 Dawson St, Dublin 03 Nov 2024,  
12:45**

Dublin-born Thérèse Fahy, one of Ireland's foremost pianists, enjoys an active performing and teaching career at home and abroad. Her regular recital and concerto appearances throughout Europe and the United States have met with critical acclaim, as have her numerous broadcasts for both RTÉ and BBC.

In recent years, Thérèse has toured the east coast of the United States, with a recital-programme of solo Irish contemporary piano music supported by Culture Ireland and the Fulbright Commission, and in 2012 with performances of the 24 Debussy Préludes, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth.

This programme was toured extensively through Europe and Ireland.

Other engagements over recent years have included solo recitals, lecture-recitals and masterclasses in France, UK, Italy, Poland, Spain, Portugal, USA, the Czech Republic,

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Holland, Israel, Ethiopia and Ireland, as well as serving on international juries including Dublin International Piano Competition, the Manchester International Concerto Competition in Great Britain, the Baltic International Piano Competition and the Scriabin International Piano Competition, Italy.

Thérèse Fahy, as the only professional Irish pianist to specialise in the performance of French music, has performed the complete works for solo piano by Debussy at Dublin's Hugh Lane Gallery.

She has also recorded a documentary, 'The Snow is Dancing', on his life and piano music for Ireland's national broadcasting station, RTE Lyric FM. She is particularly identified with the performance of Olivier Messiaen's piano music, having given the Irish premieres of Reveil des Oiseaux (2008) with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, under its Principal Conductor, Gerhard Markson, at Dublin's National Concert Hall, and, Visions de l'Amen (1990) for two pianos. Her performances of the solo works of Messiaen have been described by The Irish Times as a "tour de force".

On **November 7th**, at 1:20 pm, Abigail LaDuke and Cliodhna Regan will perform soprano duets with David Adams.

On **November 10th**, at 12:45 pm, Thérèse Fahy will perform Debussy's Preludes Book 2.

On **November 17th**, at 12:45 pm, Aileen Cahill will perform piano.

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On **November 24th**, at 12:45 pm, Soprano Kelli-Ann Masterson and pianist Niall Kinsella perform a programme of folk-song arrangements from Ireland and Britain, by composers Herbert Hughes, Benjamin Britten and Rhoda Coghill.

## 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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