

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Rome Synod starts**

October 5, 2023

## Image of the day

### Rome Synod starts



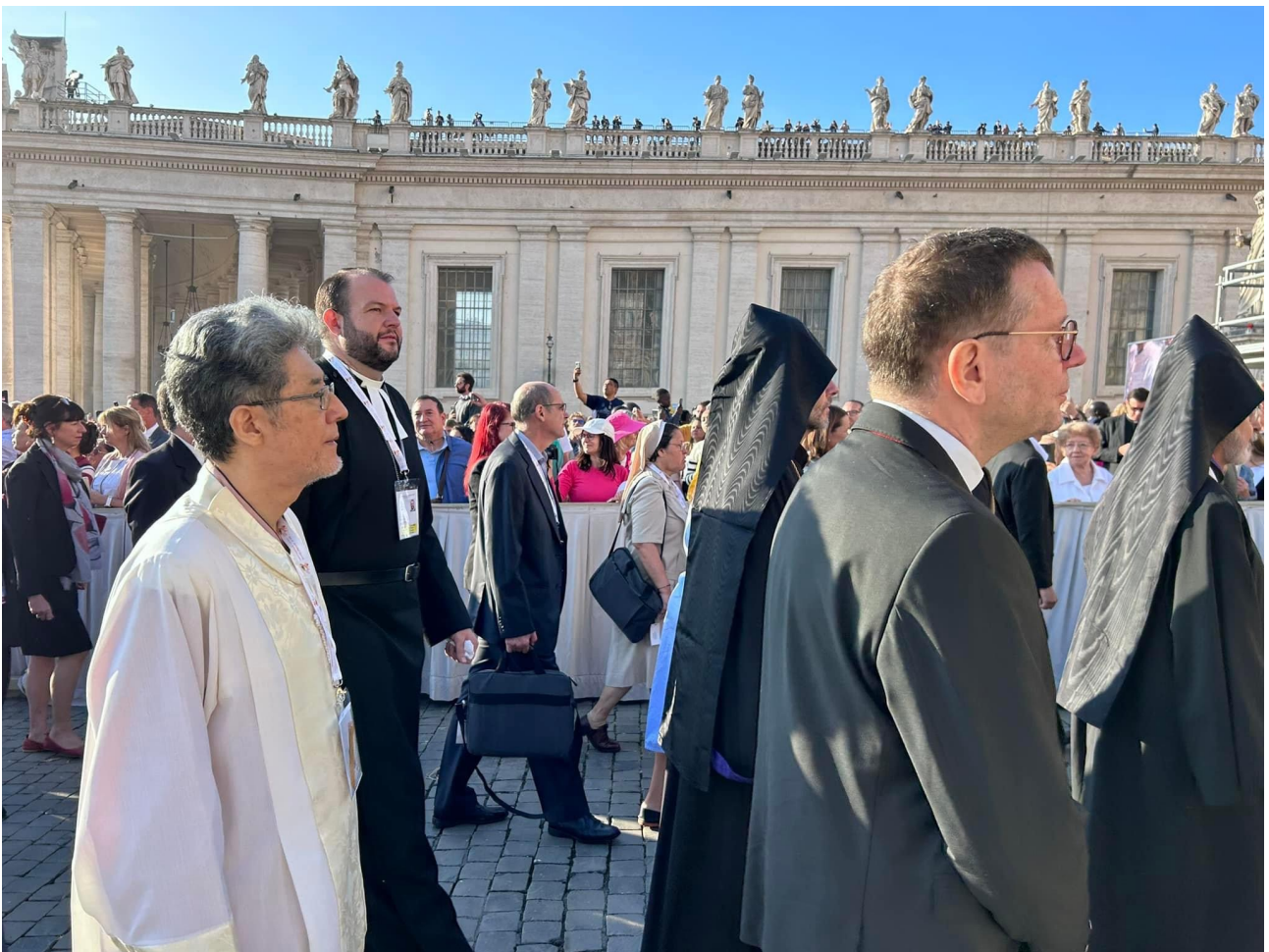
### **Mass for the opening of the General Assembly of the Synod.**

Front page photo - Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Bishop of Raphoe, is one of the two Irish bishop-members...

... and Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick (above left) is the second Irish bishop-member. Bishop Brendan is co-Chair of

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the Informal conversations between the Catholic Church and the Salvation Army. He's walking behind Bishop Shane Mackinlay of Sandhurst, Australia, who also serves as co-Chair of the Methodist-Roman Catholic international dialogue commission. Bishop Shane is walking behind Bishop Paul Tighe, another Irish bishop, who is Secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education in Rome.



Jc Park, President of the World Methodist Council, Matthew A. Laferty, Director of the Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome, and Hanns Lessing, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), among other ecumenical guests in the procession

## People and places

### First anniversary of Creeslough tragedy

#### **Creeslough prepares to mark first anniversary since tragedy stole ten lives and devastated the country**

Belfast Live reports - Those who died included three children aged 5, 13 and 14.

It will be a gathering of hearts still learning to live with the unparalleled tragedy that struck in Creeslough last year. In a week's time on Saturday, October 7, the Donegal community will welcome friends, families and support from across the country into their midst once more as they honour the ten victims of an explosion at flats above a petrol station.

Next Saturday, an anniversary memorial mass and commemoration will be held at 3pm at the site of the explosion. It will be followed at 7.30pm by a Vigil Mass to honour those who died in the tragedy, those who were injured and those who responded with help and support on the day and in the weeks and months since.

### Church of Ireland's mental health conference is sold out

**MindMatters Col, the Church of Ireland's mental health promotion project, will mark its third year with a major all-island conference in Dublin on October 20.**



## Participants in the Walk of Wellbeing

Organised by St Mary's and Fingal Rural Deaneries in Dublin at St John's Church in Laragh.

The project is delighted that the keynote speaker at the conference will be the Most Rev Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. While the conference is now SOLD OUT, there is a waiting list in operation. If you would like to be added to the waiting list please email [MHP@rcbdub.org](mailto:MHP@rcbdub.org).

Similarly, if you have booked your place at the conference but your plans have changed please email the organisers so they can reallocate your place to someone on the waiting list.



## **Archdeacon installed at St Colman's Cathedral, Cloyne**

On Wednesday, 20th September 2023, the Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Ven. Andrew Orr was installed into his stall at St Colman's Cathedral, Cloyne. The Choir of Midleton College as well as the Clerks Choral sang Choral Evensong.

MindMatters was launched on World Mental Health Day 2020 with the aim of increasing awareness of mental health within the Church and promoting a greater understanding of mental health issues.

The project began by commissioning extensive research, including the largest survey on mental health attitudes ever carried out by a Church on the island. The results of the

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survey and focus groups provided an evidence-based foundation for subsequent activities.

Following on from the research, MindMatters organised a series of Mental Health Awareness training sessions, attended by, among others, all 12 (at the time) members of the House of Bishops. This enthusiastic and visible support from the Church leadership has been a significant contributor to the success of the project to date. Over 400 people have attended training at the time of writing.

The third phase of the project has been the provision of 'seed funding' to a total of 74 local initiatives spread throughout the island of Ireland.

## Connor parishes supporting Air Ambulance NI

The Rector of Eglantine, the Reverend Jason Kernohan, presenting David & Alison Leckey with a cheque for £1423 in aid of Air Ambulance Northern Ireland. "Thank you so much to everyone who contributed so generously."





The recently refurbished church hall at Ballyscullion (Grange) Parish Church in Toomebridge was the venue for a fundraising event for Air Ambulance NI. Including old time music and storytelling, the event raised £2,605, with completed Gift Aid forms bringing the total to almost £3,000. Read more at <https://rb.gy/s09aq>

## Harvests - Christian Aid speaker at Armagh Cathedral

“Many thanks to our very talented volunteers who devoted their time and skill to make sure the Cathedral was beautifully adorned with flowers, fruit and vegetables for yesterdays Harvest celebrations.

“Thanks also to those who provided the produce which was on display. We were delighted to have Ruth Cooke from Christian Aid as our speaker at the 11am Eucharist and we





gained a valuable insight into the work undertaken by Christian Aid in places of crisis and natural disaster around the world. For the next month Bishops' appeal envelopes will be available in the Cathedral in support of those impacted by the terrible floods in Libya. Bishops' Appeal will use to all money raised to support the work currently being

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undertaken by Christian Aid workers in Libya who are doing all they can to help the injured, bereaved and those whose homes have been washed away.

## Another uplifting Harvest Thanksgiving was held in the Aughaval Parishes, this time in Holy Trinity, Westport.



Pictured here gathered around the Climate Justice Candle are guest preacher Rev'd Clive Moore, and Fr John Kenny, with the rector.

“We were pleased to have James Kilbane (Achill) sing a touching spiritual song called

Remember,

at the lighting of the candle by Brid McAuley (Westport Eco-Congregation). The organ was played by John Dexter, who



also accompanied the choir of St Mary's Westport in their singing of a very special reflective piece”.

Following a thoughtful sermon which touched on the themes of scarcity and abundance, want and need, prayers of intercession were led by Mary Manning, member of Westport Eco Congregation. The first Bible lesson was read by Rachel, a teaching member of staff from Holy Trinity N.S. It was great to have some children in the congregation and

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a special joy to welcome some of our local Ukrainian friends.

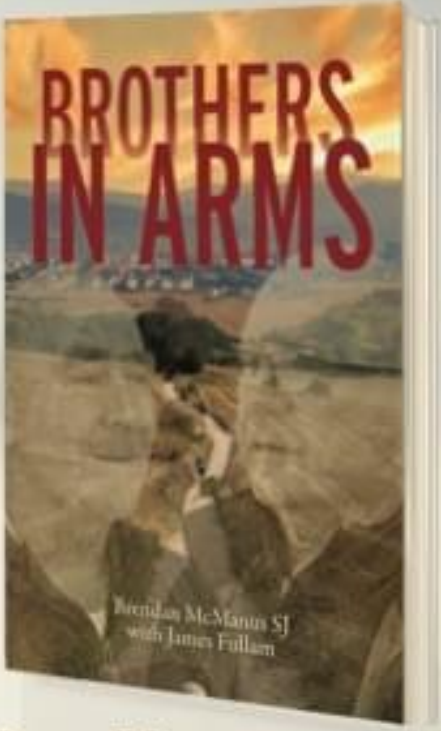
Thanks were expressed to all those who prepared and decorated the church so beautifully and to those who prepared and served the delicious supper in the school.

**Two Men, A Camino  
And A Heatwave...**

**Join us for the Launch of**


*'powerful, very moving and very instructive... it overflows with a deep sense of humanity.'*  
**The Irish Catholic**

*'I absolutely loved Brothers in Arms – the reflections, the songs, the stories of people you met along the way. I've no doubt it will help many people make the right choices along their chosen path in life.'*  
**Patricia McCann, Playwright and author of Bring Me Back Alive**



**7pm, Thursday  
9th November 2023  
Belfast Jesuit Centre, 193-195 Donegall St,  
Belfast BT1 2FL (parking available)**

**Special Guest: Alf McCreary**  
Alf McCreary is a journalist for Mediahuis UK covering Belfasttelegraph.co.uk, the Belfast Telegraph and the Sunday Life.

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# An Evening of Praise and Song

Sunday 8th October at 6.30pm  
Trinity Methodist Church,  
Knockmore Road, Lisburn

With music from Trinity Praise Group and special guests:  
**Laurelhill Community College Choir**  
**Caitlyn Kelly**  
**Chris and Michelle McCauley**  
**Aria**

Suggested donation £5 Light Refreshments included

## Stepping into Prophecy



**Training Day: Sat. 7 Oct 2023**  
with Michael & Hazel Gerner  
9.30am – 5pm  
Venue: Christian Communications Network,  
468 Shore Rd. Whiteabbey, Co. Antrim. BT37 0AB

Perhaps you have wondered, "How do I know that it is really God speaking? What should I do with something I receive? How do I pray prophetically?"

Learn how to hear from God more clearly, interpret and apply what you receive. Discover how to minister to others in prophetic prayer.


This training day is particularly suitable for those beginning to explore prophecy but also for those who have more experience and want to grow in confidence. We'll cover Scriptural principles with progressive, simple, practical exercises along the way.

Join us for an exciting adventure with our Heavenly Father who loves to communicate with His children!

**COST:** Voluntary Contribution. Please bring a packed lunch, and a notebook and pen. Tea and coffee will be provided.

**REGISTRATION:** To register for this Training Day, please send an email to: [office@divinehealingministries.org](mailto:office@divinehealingministries.org)

For more info, contact Fergus at Divine Healing Ministries:  
Tel. 07526 056059. [www.divinehealingministries.org](http://www.divinehealingministries.org)



## News reports

### Knock Shrine adult faith formation course part of new online/in-person event programme

**“A timely foundation course ideal for anyone wishing to deepen their faith or involved in parish ministries, diocesan or parish councils”**

Knock Shrine is inviting people to a new series of faith renewal events, offering the opportunity to reflect and engage in a range of faith-based workshops, discussions, and events. The programme includes an adult faith formation course, thought-provoking online discussions on the ‘Synod on Synodality’ in the Vatican, a creative and inspirational sacred art workshop in December, as well as the enchanting ‘Carols by Candlelight’ concert and a healing Reconciliation Service.

Especially in the context of the ‘Synod on Synodality’, which is in session from 4 – 29 October, this timely programme has been developed by the Faith Renewal Council at Knock Shrine to offer people the opportunity to explore their faith and to engage in discussion and reflection of contemporary Church issues.

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Father Richard Gibbons PP, Rector of Knock Shrine, said, “These faith renewal events aim to encourage and help people in their faith. Our programme has been designed to have a broad appeal, and so is wide-ranging in content. We offer something for everybody, and we welcome and encourage people to take part.”

The timing of the programme is to help deepen the Christian’s journey through the holy seasons of Advent and into Christmas. Nicola Mitchell, the Faith Renewal Co-ordinator at Knock Shrine, and member of the Faith Renewal Council, said, “We are delighted to launch this new programme for the autumn and winter season as it provides people with the opportunity to engage in a variety of faith events both in-person and online. It is the perfect time of year to engage in a new course or workshop to enrich our faith as we journey through Advent. With the Synod in Rome in mind, we felt that it was important to focus on faith renewal events in the hope that there will be something of relevance to everyone.”

## **Programme of events**

Father Eugene Duffy, a priest of the Diocese of Achonry, will kick-start the new faith renewal programme with What Do We Know About Jesus?, an evening faith formation course that will focus on the life of Christ. It will provide a foundation for those who want to deepen their own faith and be in a position to share it with others. The course will run on Tuesday evenings from 3 October until 21 November at Saint John’s Welcome Centre. Participants are invited to register online at Eventbrite, and further details are available on [knockshrine.ie](http://knockshrine.ie)

Father Eugene is currently the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Development and Renewal in Achonry. He previously taught theology at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, ATU Galway and All Hallows College, Dublin. Father Eugene said, “The programme would be an ideal foundational course for those engaged in Parish Ministries, Diocesan or Parish Pastoral Councils.” Other aspects of the programme will include:

‘The Synod on Synodality: Reflecting on the Proceedings in Rome’, will involve a series of online discussions with distinguished participants of the Synod. During these online discussions, they will share their expertise and insights with other notable experts to help develop an understanding of the key outcomes of the assembly in Rome. It is hoped that the conversations will be of particular interest to members of Diocesan and Parish Pastoral Councils, as well as to the general public.

While dates have yet to be confirmed, it is expected that this series will begin in November and will be streamed on [knockshrine.ie](http://knockshrine.ie).

In December, Dr Nora Donnelly will host a sacred art workshop entitled Seeing is Believing: Reflecting on Art as a Glimpse of the Sacred. These illustrated lectures will take place over two consecutive Saturday mornings in the peaceful surrounds of the Taizé Room in the Prayer Centre at Knock Shrine. Using well-known works of art to explore depictions of the sacred in art, the lectures will focus on works relating to Mary, the Holy Family and the Nativity. It is hoped that these images will open the door to a deeper,



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broader, and more reverend understanding of what Christmas can mean to the thinking Christian. Nora is an educator and art critic as well as an artist. She has taught both at primary and university levels, and has written extensively about the value of art as an experience to humankind.

Other events will include the annual November Remembrance Mass, and the all-night Vigil in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception beginning on the night of 7 December and which will go into the early hours of 8 November on the theme 'A Light to Enlighten the World.' The much-loved Carols by Candlelight will take place at Knock Basilica on 17 December, followed by the Advent Reconciliation Service on 19 December.

## **Former choirboy turned official portrait painter at Blackburn Cathedral**

**Blackburn Cathedral says a risky decision for the official portrait of a retired bishop, has proven to be a success.**

Displaying an official portrait of past incumbents is a traditional way to honour the role retiring bishops and deans have played in the life of a diocese. The same goes for US Presidents, monarchs, and Lords - and Ladies - of the manor.

It's a prestigious commission, rarely given to anyone not already appreciated for their artistic talent. But in a break with custom, Blackburn Cathedral agreed to offer the job to



LIVING BREATH PRODUCTIONS  
PRESENTS

# Forever Mine

*The love story behind  
the world's best-loved hymn*

ST COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL, DERRY/LONDONDERRY  
THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER, 7:30PM  
TICKETS £10 ON EVENTBRITE:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:  
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION



Amazing Grace  
1773-2023



FIND OUT MORE:  
[livingbreathproductions.com/pages/forevermine](https://livingbreathproductions.com/pages/forevermine)

After the phenomenal success of its debut tour in April, the original stage play Forever Mine returns to Derry /Londonderry in October with a special performance in St. Columb's Cathedral at the start of their UK tour.

2023 marks the 250th anniversary of "Amazing Grace" – the world's best-loved hymn and one of the most recorded songs of all time, which has a historic connection with Derry and Donegal.

Tickets can also be purchased by emailing [robert@stcolumbs.net](mailto:robert@stcolumbs.net)

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a former choirboy. Jack Aspinall said he'd had no formal training or art lessons, but asked if he could "have a go".

He's now part of the virging team and wanted to be the one to paint the retired bishop, the Rt Revd Julian Henderson, which he agreed to do with, "no strings attached and no promise it would hang as the official portrait."

The former bishop, who retired in July 2022, returned to the diocese last week to unveil the result.

The study in oil will hang on the wall in Blackburn cathedral's undercroft – and will also feature in an exhibition of Aspinall's other works, in the cathedral's Temple Gallery.

The Dean of Blackburn, the Very Revd Peter Howell Jones said: "I wasn't convinced to be honest... but he persuaded us to let him... and I'm very pleased we did, not just for the cathedral but for Jack, whose dream has now become a reality.'

The work will be on display in the Temple Gallery until mid-October.

## 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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