

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Pet blessings**

October 8, 2024

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Pet blessings

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## Image of the day



## Pet blessings

**Many churches have provided pet services recently. Bringing the family pet for a blessing was popular.**



One such parish was Eglantine, in the Lisburn area in Connor diocese.

On Sunday last the parish posted - "Today in the Parish

Hall we had a service of blessing for those very special members of our families - our pets. For such a big crowd we were astounded at just how dignified everyone was!

"Thank you to all the pets for bringing their owners and for ensuring they were well-behaved.



“We sang All things bright and beautiful, Make me a channel of your peace and All creatures of our God and King. The service featured a prayer of St Francis, a litany of thanksgiving for God's creation and the pets were blessed individually.”

### **Prayer for my pet**

In your infinite wisdom, Lord God, when you created the universe,  
you blessed us with living creatures. We especially thank you for giving us our pets,  
who are our friends and who bring us so much joy in life.  
Their presence very often helps us get through trying times.



Kindly bless my pet. May my pet continue giving me joy and remind me of your power. May we realise that as our pets trust us to take care of them, so we should trust you to take care of us, and in taking care of them we

share in your love for all your creatures. Enlighten our minds to preserve all endangered species so that we may continue to appreciate all of your creation.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## News

### Duke of Edinburgh welcomed by CCMS



**CCMS states it was delighted to welcome HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to St. Catherine's College, Armagh,**

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**to celebrate  
the 25th  
anniversary  
of the Joint  
Award  
Initiative.**

Pictured (on  
right): Noeleen  
Tiffney,  
Principal &  
Eve Bremner,  
CEO of CCMS  
greeting HRH  
The Duke of  
Edinburgh



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Through the Joint Award Initiative participants in Northern Ireland can choose a Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a Gaisce – The President's Award or a Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Certificate.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh met with pupils of St Catherine's College who are participating in the Joint Award to hear about their volunteer work, skills development and expeditions to achieve their award.



## **European Methodist Council meets in Belfast**

**The European Methodist Council gathered on Sunday at Clonard Monastery in Belfast.**

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Pictured here during a Q&A session led by the Rev Dr Heather Morris; sharing their own experiences of peace and reconciliation in Belfast –

Father Martin Magill (parish priest of St John's Parish Falls Road), Rev David Campton (Superintendent of BCM NI) and Mr Ed Peterson (Coordinator of Clonard Peace Ministry).

The council then spent time discussing what it means to be a healing and peace building people.

Photo below -Rev Brian Anderson, Superintendent of the East Belfast Mission facilitating the The European Methodist Council's reflection on justice and reconciliation









## 200th Anniversary of Cork church marked with tree planting and plaque

**Bishop Paul Colton was given a very thoughtful memento of his visit on Sunday morning to Castleventry Church for its 200th Anniversary - a beautiful plaque engraved by parishioner Karl Shorten on a piece of sycamore from the old churchyard.**

The parish posted - it was wonderful to welcome Bishop Paul Colton and Mrs Susan Colton to Castleventry Church this morning for harvest and 200 year celebration since the church was built in 1824.



Bishop Paul also planted an oak tree to mark his 25th anniversary of his consecration as bishop of Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

Gratitude was conveyed to everyone who prepared the church and grounds as well as the harvest tea afterwards.

## **Great Harvest of the Seas Thanksgiving service**

**Held on Sunday morning in St Patrick's Cairncastle, near Larne, with personnel representing RNLI, PO Ferries, Sea Cadets and Mission to Seafarers.**

The parish messaged afterwards - "So wonderful to have them all participating in the service: reading Scripture, speaking to children, giving us plenty of things to pray for,



and sharing about their various organisations and the issues affecting Seafarers and all of us today. Hand knitted woolly hats were also handed over to our guest preacher, Rev Canon Mark Reid, NI Chaplain to Mission to Seafarers.”

## **Memorial for Guildford bar bombs dead**

**A memorial service was held to mark the 50th anniversary of the Guildford pub bombings.**

The Holy Trinity Church in the Surrey city hosted the service to remember the four soldiers and a civilian killed in the attack on October 5, 1974.

The event, starting at 11.30am, had a number of invited guests, including civic leaders, representatives of the

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Women's Royal Army Corps Association and the Scots Guards Association.

Rector Canon Simon Butler said: “This is an important moment of commemoration and remembrance in the life of the families of those who were killed and the community.

“We are honoured to be able to host this special service, which both looked back at the terrible events of that night to honour those who died and those who continue to suffer as a result, and to provide an opportunity for our town, and the wider community of those affected, to dedicate ourselves to work together for peace, justice and reconciliation.”

One of the first investigations carried out by a new body tasked with probing outstanding cases from the Troubles will be into the 1974 bombings.

The Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information will probe the atrocity at the Horse and Groom pub. Another bomb detonated 30 minutes later at the Seven Stars.

The Guildford Four and Maguire Seven were wrongly convicted of the attacks in one of the UK's biggest miscarriages of justice. An IRA terror cell later claimed responsibility.

The church service was livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/c/HTSMGuildford>

## **Pope Francis picks 21 new cardinals in move that broadens pool of who will choose his successor**

**The nomination of the Archbishop of Tehran is part of Francis' desire to push for dialogue with Islam and peace in the Middle East.**

During his pontificate, Francis has overhauled the composition of the body that will elect his successor, making it more representative of the worldwide church.

His latest appointments — which include bishops from Indonesia, Japan, Algeria, Ivory Coast — continues that trend.

Read: [https://www.cnn.com/2024/10/06/europe/pope-francis-new-cardinals-intl?cid=ios\\_app](https://www.cnn.com/2024/10/06/europe/pope-francis-new-cardinals-intl?cid=ios_app)

## **Cathedral Calls**

### **Harvest at St. George's Cathedral Jerusalem**

Even in the midst of the present calamities, we at St. George's Cathedral give thanks to God for all our many



blessings, and we wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving Sunday! Don Binder

## **Bruckner and Saint-Saëns at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral**

**An opportunity to hear the restored grand organ of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral featured in Saint-Saëns' popular Third Symphony, affectionately known as the 'Organ Symphony'. On Sat 19th October 2024.**

And in celebration of Anton Bruckner's 200th anniversary in 2024, the cathedral choir will sing three of Bruckner's best-

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known motets, before combining with the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra and soloists to complete the programme with his mighty Te Deum.

Symphony No 3 'Organ' – Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)

Locus iste – Anton Bruckner (1824–1896)

Ecce sacerdos magnus – Anton Bruckner

Ave Maria – Anton Bruckner

Te Deum – Anton Bruckner

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

Mount Pleasant, L3 5TQ. Sat 19th October 2024

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Exhibition "Lisburn's Quaker School: 250 Years of Friends"

**The Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum opened the exhibition "Lisburn's Quaker School: 250 Years of Friends" on Friday.**

Attendees heard from Principal Stephen Moore, along with local leaders, including Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Mayor Cllr Kurtis Dickson and LCC Councillor Jonathon Craig both Friends' Old Scholars.

The exhibition will remain open until 31 January 2025. It features a diverse array of items from the museum's collection, the school's archives, and National Museums NI,





ensuring there's something for everyone to connect with from their school days. We warmly invite the Friends' community to visit while the exhibition is on display.

## **Belfast Philharmonic first concert of their 150th anniversary season**

**'This Shining Night' will take place on Saturday 19th October at 7.45pm in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Carryduff**

Featuring music by Morten Lauridsen, Elaine Hagenberg and the pieces commissioned for the 125th and 140th anniversaries of 'The Phil'.

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“Don't miss your chance to hear the repertoire we will be performing on our tour to Budapest at the end of the month! For more details, check out our website below and there will be a retiring collection for the Society so tickets are not required”:

<https://www.belfastphilharmonic.org.uk/>

## **Bishop McGuckian welcomes online availability of daily Mass readings in Irish**

The Irish language has joined seventeen other world languages in now having daily Mass readings available to Irish speakers at home and to over half a million speakers throughout the world.

This faith initiative has been undertaken by Evangelizo, a Catholic lay association founded in France in 2001 by Bertrand Couderc and Grégor Puppinck. Full permission to publish the Irish translation has been granted by An Bíobla Naofa © An Sagart, Maigh Nuad 2000, Éire. Evangelizo seeks to make free and available online and on social media daily Mass readings to as many people as possible, today the service has seventeen language versions and over 500,000 subscribers.

Originally from Dundalk, Paris-based Ciarán MacGuill led this project to host the Irish language version of Evangelizo. Ciarán said, “I love our Irish language and culture and have co-founded the very successful Gaeltacht here in Paris, An Ghaeltacht-sur-Seine, which has over 200 members. We offer a whole variety of opportunities for people, mostly Irish,

but also French and others, to gather socially and speak Irish. I suggested to Evangelizo's co-founder, Bertrand Couderc, that Irish could be included with their suite of international languages, and straight away he liked the idea."

Ciarán continued, "The French, and particularly French Catholics, have a great fondness for Ireland and the Irish. I got to work, preparing the texts with Evangelizo and its friends in the Monastic Community of Jerusalem. Thanks to the wonders of internet technology, the Irish language team is based across mainland Europe and the Mediterranean, from Paris and the Mont Saint Michel, to Strasbourg, Rome and Beirut. The result is that today we now have 'Soiscéal an Lae', the Irish language version of Mass readings of the day. This is a great aid for studying the Bible, for following the liturgical year and building one's faith. Our aim is to catch up with the French, Italians and Germans! They keep improving their versions, with commentaries, prayers, biographies of the saints of the day and now they also have the Mass readings in audio."

In welcoming the success of making daily Mass readings available in the Irish language, Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Bishop of Down and Connor, said, "Go gcoimeáda an Tiarna na hÉireannaigh ina lámha agus a muintir atá ina gcónaí thar sáile, sa Fhrainc agus ar fud an domhain. Go gcosnaí an Tiarna iad, agus go bhfana siad gar don Tiarna. [May Our Lord hold the Irish living in France and around the world in His hands and protect them, and may their families flourish and stay close to God].

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Bishop McGuckian continued, “Reading the Scriptures in Irish, or indeed in any language, is an extraordinary way to discover and rediscover the richness of the words and images of the Holy Bible. The daily Mass readings are a particularly powerful way to follow the liturgical year and explore the connections and associations between the books of the Bible. It is especially gratifying for Irish language enthusiasts to see our language take its place among seventeen major world languages. I wish to commend Ciarán and the Irish language community in France for this work of evangelisation. May I encourage everyone of faith, and with a love of our language, to access Soiscéal an Lae, the daily Mass readings on [www.evangelizo.com](http://www.evangelizo.com).

## In the media

### Party's secrecy contrasts with the openness shown by BHF - Belfast Telegraph

**As the biggest party on the island of Ireland, Sinn Fein has a formidable reputation for communicating its message, but for the last week, a charity with a handful of employees in Northern Ireland has been giving it a lesson in how to handle a crisis - Sam McBride writes.**

Both of these organisations have something in common: they unwittingly employed a paedophile. That's obviously

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embarrassing, yet in itself doesn't reflect badly on either. Sadly, paedophilia is present across society and is often hidden.

The test of an organisation is how it handles these issues when they arise, and that's where Sinn Fein and the BHF diverge.

Based on what we now know, the BHF handled this professionally and with basic common sense.

Most convincing has been the open way in which it has communicated with the public.

I contacted the BHF a week ago and asked it several pointed questions. Each was responded to with equal directness.

There was no attempt to suggest these questions were unfair, or because we don't like the BHF, or to provide slippery answers which obscured the truth.

On Saturday, it released a long statement setting out the facts of its handling of Michael McMonagle's employment.

Yesterday, at the BHF's invitation, I sat down with Fearghal McKinney, its most senior figure in Northern Ireland, to ask him questions.

He didn't try to claim he was rushing off to something which would cut the interview short or to think it was beneath him to be accountable about a matter which is of obvious public interest.

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Sinn Fein's approach has been the opposite of this openness.

Last week, I asked the party multiple questions, not one of which was answered. Colleagues had similar experiences.

The one interview a senior Stormont Sinn Fein figure has done about the scandal was Conor Murphy's with the BBC in which he was defensive, tetchy, and gave misleading information.

There is an entire industry built around protecting the reputation of organisations when they're caught up in a scandal which is leading front pages day after day.

Yet much of this is incredibly simple: tell the truth, don't mislead the public and demonstrate by actions rather than words that you're being transparent.

The opposite of this is expediency: The idea that if you can get away with it, then the end justifies the means. That's what led Sinn Fein into attempting to put the blame on a charity which was itself the victim of Sinn Fein not being open about someone the party knew was a potential paedophile — and based on that knowledge didn't want him anywhere near it.

There are major questions around what senior Sinn Fein figures have said over recent days. Just because the party won't yet answer them won't stop us continuing to investigate.

At heart, this ought not to be a political story; if Sinn Fein made an honest mistake, it ought to be an opportunity to

own up to that and for society as a whole to learn more about how to handle the insidious presence of paedophilia. Instead, the party's reluctance to answer basic questions suggests a deep-seated fear of what those answer

## Poem for today

### To Autumn

By William Blake

O Autumn, laden with fruit, and stainèd  
With the blood of the grape, pass not, but sit  
Beneath my shady roof; there thou may'st rest,  
And tune thy jolly voice to my fresh pipe,  
And all the daughters of the year shall dance!  
Sing now the lusty song of fruits and flowers.  
The narrow bud opens her beauties to  
The sun, and love runs in her thrilling veins;  
Blossoms hang round the brows of Morning, and  
Flourish down the bright cheek of modest Eve,  
Till clust'ring Summer breaks forth into singing,  
And feather'd clouds strew flowers round her head.

`The spirits of the air live on the smells  
`Of fruit; and Joy, with pinions light, roves round  
The gardens, or sits singing in the trees.'  
Thus sang the jolly Autumn as he sat;  
Then rose, girded himself, and o'er the bleak  
Hills fled from our sight; but left his golden load.

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# Speaking to the soul

## Go

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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Posted early Monday to Saturday

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