

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Photobombed at Portrush

Image of the day



Photobombed at Portrush

So there they were having a lovely smooth sail last Saturday between the Skerries and Royal Portrush Golf Club. And they must be in the reckoning for the photobomb of the year competition when their silent passage on one of the very best days for sunshine in this dreadfully wet year happened to be in the line of flight for this year's Portrush International Air Show

News



250 years of first Sunday School site in Ireland

On Sunday evening (8th September) there was a fantastic celebration of 250 years of Sunday School at the site of the very first one in Ireland.

Thank were expressed to everyone at Bright Parish



Church for hosting those present and to everyone who made the journey to join in the celebration on a very breezy afternoon. Eva Gracey from Hope Church, Craigavon

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shared how Sunday School had given her strong Christian foundations to build upon and Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore preached on the need to value and prioritise children's ministry in every single one of the parishes which form LAMP Kilbroney



Mothers Union launch campaign on International Literacy Day

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Mothers Union well timed the launch of their Empower Her Literacy campaign!

The MU said, “We know that literacy opens doors to independence, empowerment and the opportunity to transform lives, families and communities.

“We are standing up for the 480 million women around the world who are illiterate”.

Add your voice to their campaign today and join them in putting women's education on the global agenda:

<https://mothersuniononline.org/p/1I8Y-1G8U/empowerher?pfredir=1>



Ballymena Academy
Past Pupils' Association



**Thanksgiving
Service**

High Kirk
Presbyterian
Church

Sunday 6th
October at
3pm

Speaker -
Rev. Matthew
Boyd

Followed by
teac/coffee and
shortbread

Retiring
offering for
Tearfund and
school
co-curricular
activities

All past and present members of
Ballymena Academy Christian or Scripture
Unions and friends are welcome to a
service of thanksgiving for the work and
fellowship of these organisations and for a
chance to catch-up!

Service for Past Pupils of Ballymena Academy Scripture and Christian Unions

Ballymena Academy Past Pupils' Association would like to invite all past and present members of the Scripture and Christian Unions, along with their friends and family, to

a service of thanksgiving for the work and fellowship of these organisations through the years.

The service will be held in High Kirk Presbyterian Church on Sunday 6th October at 3pm and will be followed by an opportunity to catch-up over tea/coffee and shortbread. The speaker will be Rev Matthew Boyd and a retiring offering will be made for Tearfund and co-curricular activities in school.

Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Archbishop Dermot Farrell, left Dublin Airport last week on five chartered aircraft.

The group includes 97 sick pilgrims, 14 doctors, 38 nurses, 550 helpers including 250 young people, 30 priests and two deacons.



Pilgrim Ada Dwan with Archbishop Dermot Farrell and Fr Robert Smyth

Student helpers from Ardscoil Rís, Loreto Abbey in Dalkey and Coláiste Chill Mhantáin in Wicklow town.



Helen Dunne Barron, Lisa Geoghegan, Geraldine O'Grady, Breda Delaney, Frances Finn, Breda Minch, Claire Best, Fiona Concannon and Peter Butler. Photos by John McElroy

New Vice President of the North Western District of MWI

Alison Humphreys from Letterbreen Methodist Church is the lady in focus and her Installation service took place recently.

There was a packed church which heard Alison tell them that her theme for the next two years is "Exercise your



Cuppa with Friends

Join us at **Hilden Community Church**, Lambeg Parish, Grand Street, Lisburn for a fundraising coffee morning to help support cancer patients and their families in Northern Ireland.

 **Saturday, 14th September 2024**
 **10am to 12noon**

For more information, visit
www.friendsofthecancercentre.com
or call 028 9069 9393

Friends of the cancer centre

Friends of the Cancer Centre is a registered company limited by guarantee in Northern Ireland. Company number NI616925. Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC101345.

 Registered with **FUNDRAISING REGULATOR**

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Faith". 'I can do everything through Him who gives me strength' Phil 4 v 13.

Alison explained that there were two words she wanted to focus on over the next two years

Exercise and Faith.

By exercising our Faith we are 'to work' our own salvation.....'work out' meaning 'live out'.

Sincere thanks was expressed to the wonderful singing of the choir who sang two beautiful pieces called 'If Only I Were Someone else' and 'That Someone'.

Members had an update on their Mission partners and were truly Blessed to have Melissa Newell in the congregation. As always the Letterbreen ladies provided a delicious supper and sent everyone home filled with amazing food and feeling spiritually uplifted.

Pope Francis flies RAAF to PNG

Pope Francis travelled from Port Moresby to Vanimo, a town in the north-west of Papua New Guinea.

The Royal Australian Air Force stepped in to bring Pope Francis to the remote town of Vanimo in Papua New Guinea.



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Before take-off, the Pope took a few moments to greet the crew.



The Pope sat in a specially installed seat, in front of the papal buggy. On board, he was also bringing humanitarian aid for the people, including medications, clothes, toys, and other necessities.



Cathedral Calls



Ripon Week with Visiting North Yorkshire

The Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Wilfrid, commonly known as Ripon Cathedral (until 1836 known as Ripon Minster), is a cathedral in Ripon, the 3rd smallest city in England.

Founded as a monastery by monks of the Irish tradition in the 660s, it was refounded as a Benedictine monastery by St Wilfrid in 672. The church became collegiate in the tenth century, and acted as a mother church within the large Diocese of York for the remainder of the Middle Ages.



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT RIPON:

<https://visitingnorthyorkshire.co.uk/VisRip\ VNY554>

The present church is the fourth, and was built between the 13th and 16th centuries. In 1836 the church became the cathedral for the Diocese of Ripon. In 2014 the Diocese was incorporated into the new Diocese of Leeds, and the church became one of three co-equal cathedrals of the Bishop of Leeds.



The cathedral is notable architecturally for its gothic west front in the Early English style, considered one of the best of its type, as well as the Geometric

east window. The seventh-century crypt of Wilfrid's church is a significant example of early Christian architecture in England. The cathedral has Grade I listed building status.



Clergy and ministry

Redemptorist first profession

Queen's Catholic Chaplaincy said - We're immensely proud of recent Queen's alumnus, Kevin Heffron, who has made first profession of vows with the Redemptorist Order at Clonard Monastery. Ad multos annos, Br Kevin!

Six new seminarians from Down and Connor

Communications Officer for The Diocese of Down and Connor Fr Eddie McGee has described the vocation success of the diocese, with 6 seminarians poised to enter the national seminary in Maynooth this September, as being the product of years of work, work invested by the diocese but also supplemented by "the calling of God".

<https://www.irishcatholic.com/6-seminarians-for-down-and-connor-a-calling-from-god/>

By boat from Boston to Clonfert

Introduction of Rev'd John McGinty as Priest-in-Charge of the Clonfert Union of Parishes – Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt & Portumna in St Brendan's Cathedral, Clonfert, 5th September.



It was a dry autumnal evening when a large crowd entered the magnificent western doorway of the Cathedral to celebrate the arrival of Rev'd John McGinty to the Parish. He had come from Boston, after his retirement there, to open a new chapter in his ministry. He made the journey by boat, which took a week, as a gesture to his mother,

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who left
Claremorris,
Co Mayo and
travelled, by
boat, to the
US in 1954.

The Right
Rev'd
Michael
Burrows,
Bishop of
Tuam,
Limerick &
Killaloe
welcomed
everyone in
his inimitable
and
energetic
way. He then
led the
Service with



great warmth and the Venerable John Godfrey, Archdeacon
of Tuam & Killaloe, presented the new priest and later
preached the Sermon, which was thoughtful and thought-
provoking.

Members of the congregation and the wardens brought
forward symbols of teaching, pastoral and sacramental
ministry along with the key to the Cathedral, Church of
Ireland Directory and water from the font. It was a very
moving part of the Service as the congregation was involved

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in the prayers and aspirations for the new priest as he received each symbol.

The organist for the evening was Mr Ken Bracken from Banagher.

Refreshments were served in the Cathedral afterwards and Rev'd McGinty got to speak to his new parishioners, and they all got to welcome him. Earlier Rev'd McGinty led the congregation in the Prayers of the People. It ended with a very special prayer associated with St Brendan of Clonfert. It is indeed a very appropriate prayer for a priest who had crossed the Atlantic, by boat, to continue the long tradition of worship in a place of great serenity close to the Shannon:

God of sea and land, you endowed your servant Brendan,
With a bold and adventurous spirit to occupy himself on the
great waters.

And revealed to him your wonders in the deep –
Make us, who recall with thanksgiving his life and ministry,
Zealous to be pioneers and pilgrims for the faith of Christ,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In the media

[Sale of church investigated as Vatican rejects plea to save it - Belfast Telegraph](#)

[Parishioners claim 'loophole' let Mercy Order sell Thornhill site, Garrett Hargan writes.](#)



Thornhill House was built in 1885 by the owner of two vast distilleries.

Campaigners are continuing a fight to save a former Catholic church in Londonderry despite a Vatican ruling supporting moves to close the site, as it emerged the Charity Commission are also investigating the sale.

The site of the now former Church of the Immaculate Conception at Thornhill also includes a historic baronial style house which dates back to 1885.

Culmore did not have a Roman Catholic parish until an upsurge in the Catholic population led to one being created in 1995.

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The Mercy Order convent leased a church to the parish from 1995 to 2023. It had been used as an oratory when they had a boarding school.

The Sisters of Mercy then decided to sell the building in 2022.

The Diocese of Derry had a contract with the Sisters of Mercy for use of the space which did not belong to them and the diocese chose not to renew the contract.

The church was subsequently deconsecrated using what campaigners say was a “loophole”, declaring it an oratory.

Parishioners appealed that decision to transfer it to secular use - firstly to the Bishop, then to the Vatican.

A Save Our Church Thornhill group that vowed to continue a campaign to save their church despite the Vatican supporting moves to close it, is backed by more than 1,350 parishioners.

A spokesperson for the parishioners said: “Words are totally inadequate to express our heartfelt sorrow that the Vatican has turned down our appeal. Our barrister and legal team believed we had sufficient grounds to win and the rejection has come as a devastating blow.” The Vatican Canon Law decision rested on the description of the church as an “oratory” rather than a “parish church”, the group said.

“We submitted more than 100 witness statements to the contrary. The clue is in the title, as the road sign and former bulletins read 'Thornhill Church' and not Thornhill Oratory.

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“We already have three parishioners willing to buy it and restore it to a place of worship.



Closing - the chapel in Culmore run by the Sisters of Mercy Order.

“We look forward to participating in the sale which surely must be widely publicised. We have not given up hope.”

The Belfast Telegraph has been told a group of lay Catholics from the United States is prepared to outbid other interested parties in order to save the church.

Acting on behalf of the US-based group who wish to retain the Catholic Church, auctioneer Vincent Walsh offered £2 million for lands and buildings bordering the River Foyle, Culmore Rd, Gilliland Farm and the former school site as their boundaries, and £20k per acre for lands on the Culmore Rd and Springfield Rd, which has the golf club and the Church of Ireland palaces as their boundaries.

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“We were negotiating the eight terms and conditions of the sale with a representative of the Mercy Order when the Order abruptly broke off all communications,” a spokesperson for the group said.

“Our group remain willing and able to purchase the property at full market value and ask the Order where it is advertised.”

The Sisters of Mercy and Luke Curran Solicitors, which has been acting on their behalf, have been contacted for comment. So too has Bishop of Derry Donal McKeown.

Vatican turns down appeal to save Derry church - Derry Now

<https://www.derrynow.com/news/derry-news/1598304/vatican-turns-down-appeal-to-save-derry-church.html>

Vatican turns down appeal to save Derry church - Clerical Whispers

<https://clericalwhispers.blogspot.com/2024/09/vatican-turns-down-appeal-to-save-derry.html>



Poem for today

The Foggy Dew

by Katharine Tynan

A splendid place is London, with golden store,
For them that have the heart and hope and youth galore;
But mournful are its streets to me, I tell you true,
For I'm longing sore for Ireland in the foggy dew.

The sun he shines all day here, so fierce and fine,
With never a wisp of mist at all to dim his shine;
The sun he shines all day here from skies of blue:
He hides his face in Ireland in the foggy dew.

The maids go out to milking in the pastures gray,
The sky is green and golden at dawn of the day;
And in the deep-drenched meadows the hay lies new,
And the corn is turning yellow in the foggy dew.

Mavrone ! if I might feel now the dew on my face,
And the wind from the mountains in that remembered place,
I'd give the wealth of London, if mine it were to do,
And I'd travel home to Ireland and the foggy dew.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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