

# Church News Ireland



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September 17, 2024

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**“We were delighted to have Archbishop Michael with us in St Brigid’s this morning to commission the mission team who travel to Cambodia on 27th September in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Ireland.”**

In his sermon the Archbishop encouraged the team in their calling to serve whilst reminding all of the congregation that this was a mission for all of us in the church.

Following the sermon the Archbishop commissioned the team. Missing from the photo are Ann, George, Helen and Pam.

## News

### All Ireland President of Methodist Women installed

**In Ballynahinch Methodist Church Rev David Turtle ,Superintendent Minister of Lagan Valley and South Down, gave a warm welcome on Sunday to a full**



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## church for the Installation of Alexa Brown as All Ireland President of Methodist Women in Ireland.

Ladies travelled  
from all around  
Ireland to the  
lovely and  
meaningful  
service.

Alexa has  
chosen as her



theme "Staying Connected"  
to God and each other. She  
spoke about some pictures  
that had inspired her to allow  
her name forward to this  
high position.

Rev Dr John Alderdice gave  
a very interesting talk on  
Leadership, and how  
important it is to Lead, Listen  
and Love.

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Praise and Worship was the highlight of the afternoon with the singing amazing. Appreciation was conveyed to Olive Rowe who led MWI for the past two years and a warm welcome extended to Alexa.

Thanks were expressed to all who took the time on a busy afternoon to be with us, those who led in prayer, readings, music, door greeters, collectors and anyone else who helped in any way.

“No Methodist gathering would be complete without a cuppa and treats.....and we weren't disappointed. We all came away full of goodies and spiritually fed. Thank you Ballynahinch for hosting such an outstanding event”.

Representatives of other church women organisations included Joyce Bond (Women's Link President) and Sally Cotter (Connor MU President)

## **200th anniversary of St Ninian's Church Convoy**

**Sunday was a red letter day for one group of parishioners in East Donegal as they celebrated the 200th anniversary of their beloved church, St Ninian's, in Convoy.**

It was an occasion to savour, with Bishop Andrew Forster joining the congregation to preach the sermon and three former rectors, Rev Peter Wilson, Rev Canon Bob Hanna and Rev David Griscome, turning up to celebrate the historic occasion.



Clergy and readers from a number of Raphoe parishes were also there to support the parishioners in a Service of Thanksgiving that was organised and led by the former Rural Dean, Rev Canon David Crooks, and attended too by his successor, the Dean of Raphoe Very Rev Liz Fitzgerald. Clergy from the local Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches were also in St Ninian's for today's celebration.

Extra chairs had to be brought into the church to accommodate the huge number of people who filled the pews and spilled over in the aisle. In his sermon, Bishop Andrew invited a show of hands of all those present who had been baptised in St Ninian's or been married there – and it was striking how many of the congregation raised their arms in the air.

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During his sermon, Bishop Andrew remarked on how the church of Jesus Christ was linked to the past but yet was ever new. "Think back, to 1824. Now, the Bishop at the time was William Bissett. So, Bishop Bissett – which is quite hard to say – he was actually the last Bishop of Raphoe before the amalgamation of the two dioceses, so he lived in Raphoe and would've made the short journey to Convoys to dedicate this church in 1824.



"It's stood through famine; through the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland, when we stopped being the state church; through two world wars; through independence and partition; through, I think I'm right in saying, two pandemics, (there might've been more); and through civil war. It's stood here through days when everyone in the local community was connected in some way to a church, to days that are much more secular - today. It's stood sentinel as a place of worship and of witness to Jesus Christ. For 200 years, it's been a place for family – a place for the family of God.



Bishop Andrew expressed deep gratitude to the members of Convoy Parish Church. "Thank you for your love for St Ninian's, Convoy. Thank you for your care for this place that speaks so much to the community around. And I thank you that you are part of the people of God, the union of our church, the family of God, the Holy Temple, the bride of Christ. You are precious to him." The Old Testament lesson was read by Rev David Griscome. Select Vestry member Robert McGonigle delivered the New Testament reading. And Canon Bob Hanna read the Gospel. Soloist Rebecca Quinn sang a hymn, accompanied by her mother, Karen, on the organ, and among the other hymns sung in the service was St Ninian's Hymn.

## **Mighty cohort of bellringers for re-dedication of Mallow church's 6 bells**

**The mighty cohort of bellringers of all ages from the Parish of St Mary, Doneraile, Co Cork in Mallow Union of**



## **Parishes in the Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross**

They were among the very full congregation at the Service of re-dedication of the church's 6 bells on Sunday afternoon. It was a wonderful occasion.

After the Service of re-dedication s the bells were rung by all the members of one family - The Wharton family. They were joined by the bishop in the bell tower.

The rector of Mallow Union of Parishes the Reverend Meurig Williams (second from right) with the Wharton family and on the left, former rector, Canon Eithne Lynch.





Above - The Buckley family - all bellringers - George and Ben's father and 5 uncles - six men in all - were among the first to ring the bells in

Doneraile after they were installed in 1890. The bells fell silent during the First World War and they went to serve. All returned safely. Bishop Paul Colton said he was very moved

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by their story and paid best wishes to George and Betty who will be 65 years married this week!



## **2,135 road miles later, Strabane fundraiser Philip is safely back home**

**Well done Philip! A strong cup of tea was no doubt in order.**

If you're in a position to support Philip and would like to do so as he raises funds towards a new floor and heating system in the Parish Church building, please use the PayPal link below or see Philip or any Vestry member.

<https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/97f8j5gHy0>

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# Cathedral Calls



*Deans after the Monday evening Irish Deans' Conference dinner.*

## **Irish Deans visit Belfast Cathedral and city**

**The 2024 Irish Deans' Conference was held at StAnne's last Monday and Tuesday.**

The deans were welcomed by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde, and the conference began with a



The Rev Karen Campbell, ICC, standing, gave a presentation to the Irish Deans' Conference on the morning of September 10.

Service of Holy Communion in the Cathedral's Chapel of Unity, before lunch was served on Monday.

The opening session that afternoon included talks by Mr Trevor Douglas, Belfast Cathedral General Manager, and Andrew Bass of the Benefact Trust on the topic 'Growing Cathedrals'.

There was also a tour of Belfast Cathedral and some free time for the guests before attending Choral Evensong with the Cathedral Choir.

The Conference Dinner was held in the Ramada Hotel, and afterwards the Very Rev Dr Sarah Rowland Jones, Dean of



St Davids Cathedral, Wales, gave a talk 'From the Foreign Office to St Davids – a Personal Odyssey to a Place of Pilgrimage'.

Tuesday morning began with Morning Prayers in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in St Anne's, followed by a presentation by Connor Diocesan Communications Officer Karen Bushby on the topic 'Communicating Cathedrals'.

The deans then heard the Rev Karen Campbell, Good Relations Officer with the Irish Council of Churches, speaking on 'From Grand Rapids to Grand Designs, High Liturgy and Multi Culturalism for a Cathedral context'.

Before lunch on the Tuesday, there was a visit to the Belfast Whiskey Museum in nearby Hill Street, and for those deans who wished to take up the opportunity, there was an optional visit to Titanic Museum on the Tuesday afternoon.

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Joining Dean Forde and Dr Sarah Rowland Jones for the conference were Dean Nigel Crossey, Kilmore; Dean Nigel Dunne, Cork; Dean Dermot Dunne, Christ Church, Dublin; Dean Liz Fitzgerald, Raphoe; Dean Shane Forster, Armagh; Dean Kenny Hall, Clogher; Dean Isobel Jackson, Kildare; Dean Diane Matchett, Tuam; Dean Paul Mooney, Ferns; Dean Bruce Hayes, Waterford and Dean Niall Sloane, Limerick.

## Clergy and ministry



### First profession of vows

Br Kevin Heffron pictured after making his first profession of vows with the Redemptorist Order in Clonard Monastery, Belfast, on September 7. Photo: Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University, Belfast



## **Derry Diocesan Reader commissioned**

Parishioners and friends of All Saints' Clooney gathered in church on Sunday morning and supported one of their own members, Bobby Keys, being commissioned as a Diocesan Reader by Rt Rev Andrew Forster, at a service led by the parish's recently ordained Curate, Rev Mel Niblock.

Bobby has been a lifelong member of All Saints' Church where he already fulfils many roles. He sits on the Select Vestry, leads the Monday Morning Bible Study, oversees the Confirmation Class and also sings with the choir.

Photo gallery at

<https://www.facebook.com/528414856142420/posts/841533698163866>



## From Limerick to Bray

On Sunday parishioners of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, said their farewells to the Curate Assistant the Rev'd Dr Leonard Madden who this week will be instituted incumbent of Bray. “We thank him for his ministry here and wish him and Catherine every blessing on the next stage of their journey”

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books





## Jazz at St James's Mallow

**On Saturday 21st September from 1.00pm to 3.00pm, St James's Church in Mallow is inviting everyone in the town and the surrounding communities to join them for a picnic lunch with jazz provided by The Underscore Orkestra.**

The event is free, open to all, and no tickets are required. If the weather is good, it will take place in the community

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garden around the church; if not, it will happen in the church, which will be decorated in preparation for the Harvest celebrations the following day.

This year, St James's Church has been celebrating 200 years since the present church was consecrated and has received a great deal of support and encouragement from local businesses, organisations and public figures in the town.

The rector of Mallow Union, the Rev. Meurig Williams said: This is our way of saying "Thank You" to the town and everyone who has supported us during the course of the year – and we hope that they will enjoy some terrific music from a top-notch jazz band, as well as our lovely new community garden. Music is a great way of bringing people together from different backgrounds, and we hope this will appeal to many different people of all ages and backgrounds.

Those attending are invited to bring their own picnic lunch – and whatever they would like to drink (tea and coffee will be available). If the weather looks good, bring a blanket to sit on the grass in the gardens (chairs and tables will be available for those who find sitting on the grass difficult). If it is wet, the event will happen in the church. As the Rector said, 'there's plenty of room to dance in the church'!

## **Book - Jesus for Everyone - Not Just Christians**

**By Amy-Jill Levine**

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**The renowned biblical scholar, Vanderbilt University Divinity School Professor, and author of *Short Stories by Jesus* and *The Misunderstood Jew* argues that Jesus's historic and cultural influence make him fascinating, provocative, and relevant for everyone, not only faithful Christians but nonbelievers as well.**

Two thousand years after his birth and death, Jesus of Nazareth continues to be of vital interest. Yet much of the scholarship around Jesus focuses on his religious significance. *Jesus for Atheists* examines his most famous teachings from a fresh perspective, exploring how they have continued to shape ethics and civilization in the West for two millennia.

Even for those who reject faith, Jesus's life and his philosophy are important to study Amy-Jill Levine contends, because of the insights they hold for us today. Poring through scripture, analyzing what historical scholarship has revealed about Jesus's views on a number of subjects including women reveals surprising messages sure to be fascinating to all readers.

Placing Jesus of Nazareth within his historical context, Levine brings him vividly into focus and invites agnostics and the most committed nonbelievers to appreciate his lasting impact on the modern world. Reduced to £26.99 at Church House Bookshop

[\[https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780062216724/jesus-for-everyone\]](https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780062216724/jesus-for-everyone)

# Poem for today

## From Church Going

**By Philip Larkin**

Once I am sure there's nothing going on  
I step inside, letting the door thud shut.  
Another church: matting, seats, and stone,  
And little books; sprawlings of flowers, cut  
For Sunday, brownish now; some brass and stuff  
Up at the holy end; the small neat organ;  
And a tense, musty, unignorable silence,  
Brewed God knows how long. Hatless, I take off  
My cycle-clips in awkward reverence,

Move forward, run my hand around the font.  
From where I stand, the roof looks almost new-  
Cleaned or restored? Someone would know: I don't.  
Mounting the lectern, I peruse a few  
Hectoring large-scale verses, and pronounce  
'Here endeth' much more loudly than I'd meant.  
The echoes snigger briefly. Back at the door  
I sign the book, donate an Irish sixpence,  
Reflect the place was not worth stopping for.

Yet stop I did: in fact I often do,  
And always end much at a loss like this,  
Wondering what to look for; wondering, too,  
When churches fall completely out of use  
What we shall turn them into, if we shall keep  
A few cathedrals chronically on show,

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Their parchment, plate, and pyx in locked cases,  
And let the rest rent-free to rain and sheep.  
Shall we avoid them as unlucky places.

## 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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## Church News Ireland

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September 17, 2024