

Church News Ireland

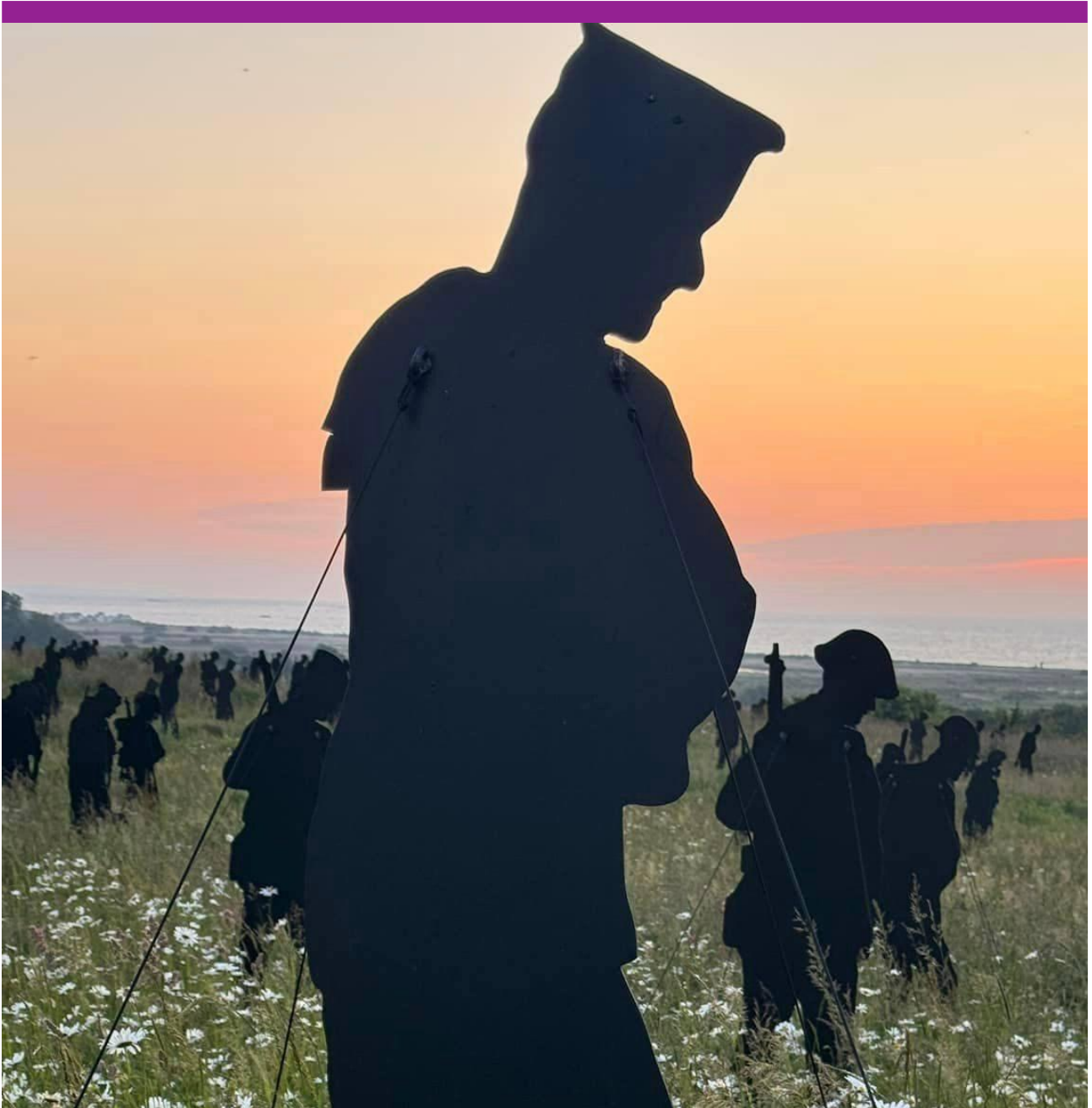


Image of the day – Standing with Giants

Image of the day

Standing with Giants

Today is the last official day of the Standing with Giants installation at the British Normandy Memorial, The silhouettes will begin to be removed today and their departure will be on Friday 13 September.

Many thousands of visitors have experienced the power of this very special installation marking the 80th anniversary year of D-Day.

The silhouettes are returning to Britain to fulfil an obligation to go on display at National Trust - Stowe.

The Normandy Memorial Trust is hoping it will be possible for the 'Giants' to return to the Memorial next year.

News

In the Moderator's week

The Moderator of the PCI led the Sunday service in First Saintfield yesterday and in the afternoon participated in an Ards Presbytery event.

There will be a dedication of a new hall at First Broughshane on Friday of this week.

September 2, 2024

A boating bishop

Safely arrived in Skibbereen and all set to celebrate with everyone there and all at Skibbereen Rowing Club the homecoming yesterday afternoon of the Olympians



MCI President completing one million steps for Centre in Zimbabwe

The MCI President Rev Dr John Alderdice and his wife Ruth Alderdice are almost at the finish line of completing ONE MILLION steps between them for Step Up!

They have been walking for over two hours every day to raise money for King George VI Centre in Zimbabwe.

Help them reach their fundraising target:

Support their fundraiser here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/john-alderdice-1722411603890>

Find out more about the MCI's partners and the people they impact at IMC website: <https://irishmethodist.org/world-development>

Global Prayer mobilizes Christian communities for Season of Creation 2024

On Sunday, 1 September, the Season of Creation 2024 began with a global online prayer event, bringing together Christians from diverse traditions to pray for the wellbeing of creation.

This year's theme, "To hope and act with Creation," highlights the moral imperative for faith communities to take decisive action against the environmental crisis.

Rev Prof Dr Jerry Pillay, WCC general secretary, affirms, "Our faith compels us to stand against the destruction of our planet. This season is a call for bold, sustainable action."

The WCC is cohosting various events, including a webinar on the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and an Action Day focused on practical steps that faith communities can take to combat climate change. These initiatives are designed to turn prayer into action, advocating for justice for the most vulnerable.

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Athena Peralta, director of the WCC Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development, states, "Climate change is a moral issue that demands our collective voice. We can create the change needed for a sustainable future through prayer and activism for the phaseout of fossil fuels."

From 1 September to 4 October, the Season of Creation calls Christians worldwide to unite in prayer and take tangible steps toward environmental stewardship and climate justice. The WCC encourages member churches to engage in sustainable practices, support environmental justice initiatives, and be a voice for the voiceless.

Watch the Prayer Service for Creation Day on Youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MUb-DT4x_Y

Season of Creation website: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Professor Mary McAleese to speak at Root & Branch event

Professor Mary McAleese, Sister Joan Chittester and Fr Tony Flannery are among the speakers at the Root and Branch lay-led 'Empowering Ourselves' event, which is taking place from August 30th to September 1st at Hinsley Hall in Leeds.

In a recent Tablet article, Professor McAleese, warned that "The days of uncritical subservience to a dysfunctional magisterium are already over." Following this, it is here that the Root and Branch theme of 'Empowering Ourselves'

STOP PRESS

DR MARY MCALEESE
joins our opening
live by Zoom

Empowering Ourselves
flourish & thrive

HINSLEY HALL, Leeds, LS6 2BX
Friday 30th Aug - Sunday 1st Sept

Hybrid live, in-person
and online worldwide.

www.rootandbranchsynod.org/hinsley-hall

OUR GREAT SPEAKERS

JOAN CHITTISTER OSB
TONY FLANNERY, CSSR
REV'D RUTH GEE
ANGELA HANLEY

INFO & BOOKING

AND MORE

comes alive. Speaking on this theme will also be Benedictine Sister Joan Chittester and silenced Redemptorist priest Tony Flannery among many others.

This will be Root and Branch's third live, in-person and online gathering in five years. There will be participation from Papua New Guinea and Australasia, the North American continent and Europe. Recordings will be available to all who have registered.

The live sessions will be at Hinsley Hall in Leeds, UK and will allow participants to both listen to speakers and ask questions as well as time for small group discussions both in the room and online. When asked why this event is taking place when the synod is still ongoing, Mary Ring, a founder of the Root and Branch movement, told the Tablet: "The Synod has not proven to be the widely engaging and reformatory experience that people hoped for."

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Root and Branch has taken seriously Canon Law 212 which lays down our 'right and even at times the duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church, and to make their opinion known to the rest of the Christian faithful.'" In other words to empower ourselves.

To register for this event, sign up at:
www.rootandbranchsynod.org/hinsley-hall

Irish Presbyterians at General Assembly of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is one of 96 churches from more than 30 countries which came together in Romania last week for the General Assembly of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE), where topics for discussion have included migration, minorities, inter-religious dialogue, and democracy, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter

Taking place in the southern Transylvanian town of Sibiu, 170 miles north-west of the Romanian capital Bucharest, former Irish Presbyterian moderator, the Rev Dr David Bruce, represented his church and took part in one of yesterday's sessions, entitled – 'Time of Hope – Churches as actors in overcoming war and conflict'.

Comprised of Lutheran, Methodist, Reformed and United churches, the body was originally known as the Leuenberg Church Fellowship, named after the small Swiss city in

which an ‘Agreement between Protestant Reformation churches in Europe’ was signed in 1973. Basis for the ‘Leuenberg Agreement’ is fellowship between the various Protestant denominations who signed it.

The general assembly of the fellowship is held every six years, and in 2001 it took place in Belfast. Two years later, to mark the 30th anniversary of the agreement, it became the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe. CPCE, which PCI joined in 1974. It also includes three Reformed denominations in South America, and continues to grow.

Speaking from Romania, Dr Bruce said: “It has been a privilege to represent PCI at this week’s general assembly, especially in a part of south east Europe which has witnessed such massive changes during the latter years of the 20th century with the ending of communist rule.

“Through CPCE we have an opportunity to worship and pray together, to discuss many of the common challenges we are facing, especially at a time of continuing change in Europe. It has been a pleasure to get to know better other churches in the fellowship, as we benefit from hearing the various perspectives of our brothers and sisters in Christ, on range of important issues that will shape the future of the CPCE and the Reformed church in Europe.”

The general assembly opened on Tuesday with a service of worship in the medieval town’s Evangelical Lutheran cathedral. During the service four new denominations from Iceland, Ukraine, Latvia, Georgia and the southern Caucasus region of eastern Europe, were admitted to the Communion.

Themed ‘In the light of Christ – called to hope’, throughout this week the 150 delegates discussed a wide range of issues, that included migration from the perspective of the countries from which people emigrate, how the churches deal with the war in Ukraine and interreligious dialogue in times of conflict in the Middle East.

During the panel discussion ‘Time of Hope – Churches as actors in overcoming war and conflict’, Dr Bruce was joined by representatives of the German Evangelical Lutheran church in Ukraine, Evangelical Lutheran church of Russia the Evangelical Lutheran church in Croatia, along with University of Fribourg in Switzerland.

The discussion considered the war in Ukraine, current conflict in Gaza, and asked what churches have learned in other conflicts and how can churches frame the central Christian value of hope during a conflict and challenges of peacebuilding post conflict?

Dr Bruce said: “In my reflections on the theme of hope in the face of conflict, I drew on, and referred to a 2019 Irish Presbyterian publication ‘Considering Grace – Presbyterians and the Troubles’. The book recounts the stories of many Presbyterians and their families faced with the loss of loved ones during what has become known as ‘The Troubles’ in Northern Ireland.

“My fellow panellists brought their own experiences from Ukraine, Russia and Croatia, as I explored how it has been important for Irish Christians to de-sacralise that which should never have been made holy, and de-demonise those who should never have been considered evil.

“I also spoke about recapturing the central Biblical theme of the incarnation, in which Jesus Christ emptied Himself to become one with a broken humanity. It was a constructive, informative and at times moving discussion. Feedback was positive, just as our time together this week has been a positive, constructive, and worthwhile,”

Cathedral Calls



Thanksgiving Ceremony for success of Derry Cathedral's Festival of Cloaks

Worship and culture blended beautifully in St Columb's Cathedral on last Friday evening (August 30th 2024) as leading clergy from the city's four main churches took part in a Thanksgiving Ceremony celebrating the success of the Cathedral's Festival of Cloaks.



The Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart and the parish of Templemore's Pastoral Assistant, Rev Canon John Merrick were joined by the two local bishops, Rt Rev Andrew Forster and Most Rev Dr Donal McKeown, as well as by Rev Craig Wilson from the Presbyterian Church and



Rev Peter Morris from the North West Methodist Mission Circuit. The Archdeacon of Derry, Ven Robert Miller, also took part.

During the ceremony, a newly commissioned St Brigid's Cloak – which was designed by Michelle Hickey-Legge and made by volunteers in a series of workshops – was dedicated by Bishop Andrew before it's put on permanent display in the Vestibule of the Cathedral.

There was a rich and inclusive programme of music and dance to lend color to the occasion, featuring uilleann piper Brian Stafford; violinist and harpist Tracey McRory; Highland dancer Emily Fielding; and a piano and flute quartet comprised of brothers Ben and Simon McGonigle (piano and flute respectively), Leanne Peacocke (flute) and Tim

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Cairns (also playing the flute). A number of volunteers also took part in a parade of cloaks, wearing some of the garments that have been on display along the aisles of the church.

Dean Stewart offered a reflection on the festival, describing it as the longest event in the Cathedral's history. "Since 14th June," he said, "15,000 visitors from 59 countries of the world have entered these doors, seen the Cathedral and enjoyed the exhibition." He said the Cathedral's events team



were indebted to those individuals and organizations who had loaned them cloaks for festival. The Dean paid tribute to the volunteers who had enabled them to stage the exhibition for six hours, six days a week over the past three months. "We have many things to reflect upon, many memories to cherish, many friendships have been made and built."

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Bishop Andrew thanked and congratulated those responsible for the Festival of Cloaks and suggested that all of those present had to work with the spirit to keep putting the Church on the map. "Culture has changed," he said. "Times have changed. People's connection with the Church has changed. So we have to keep working hard to keep putting the Church on the map. What this wonderful festival has done is, in many ways, reminded us of that vision of the Church not simply being a place for an hour on Sunday but a place that's open, welcoming, vibrant, a place with open arms for all."

In view of its popularity, The Festival of Cloaks – with its display of 85 cloaks – has been extended for a fortnight until Saturday 14th September.

Could you be a boy chorister at St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh?

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- *Opportunities to sing for special services with VIP guests which in recent years have included HM The King and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Boys are welcome to join the Choir from the age of seven.

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Please contact the Master of the Choristers for an informal voice test. Dr Stephen Timpany organist@stpatricks-cathedral.org

or the Cathedral Administrator admin@stpatricks-cathedral.org

Tel: (028) 3752 3142



Glorious evening at launch of the Red Book of Ossory in Saint Canice's Cathedral

It was wonderful to have so many supporters of the project present and to have Malcolm Noonan T.D., Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, to formally open the exhibition.



Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Mayor of Kilkenny spoke on behalf of the people of Kilkenny and the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory spoke of the ecumenical significance of the Red Book.

Brendan Corcoran as Ledrede brought to life the medieval town of Kilkenny and with St.Canice's Cathedral Choir singing contemporaneous music we were transported back to the 14th century.

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Clergy and ministry

Farewell from St Patrick's Parish, Belfast

**Words of Farewell
to Fr Tony from Fr
Eugene delivered
at 11am Mass on
Sunday 25 August**

-

On behalf of the
parish family of St
Patrick's, I want to
say some words of
thanks and farewell
to Fr Tony as he

completes his ministry in St Patrick's with this – his final
Sunday Mass. And to congratulate him on his promotion to
guide St Oliver Plunkett's Parish into the future.

St Patrick's has always been fortunate to receive a steady
stream of newly-ordained priests over the years – to serve
their first apprenticeship in this vibrant community. And
such was Fr Tony when he first arrived with us six years ago
in the autumn of 2018. In that time, he has made an



indelible mark on the life of the parish. He has proved himself to be a hard-worker, a diligent hospital chaplain, a caring pastor and an outstanding chaplain to our parish primary school. He has also been a simply outstanding colleague whom I shall miss greatly and always appreciate: dependable, loyal, full of sound judgement – and that essential quality in any team: good humour. Fr Tony can find the fun in any situation; and has an eye for the telling detail that can provoke laughter, something that has enhanced the morale of the entire parish team.

Fr Tony has served the parish at a time of transition – the leadership of two bishops, the coming of the Jesuit Fathers, the opening of a new parish primary school and the arrival of a new university. As well as the Covid 19 Pandemic – during which he acted as chaplain at a time of great personal danger. Fr Tony's capacity for clear-thinking, especially during the re-opening of the parish after Lockdown, was a god-send.

I have often reflected that in the last 202 years of its existence, 187 priests have lived and worked in the parish we all love, doing just that - 4 of them, bishops; 24, administrators, 159, curates – serving, in these last two centuries, probably over a million souls. In fact, 95 years ago this very day, Bishop Mageean was consecrated in this very church. We take our place in a noble band. I know that Fr Tony finds it consoling – as I do – to know that he is part of a tradition and a band of 187 people, each of whom has worked quietly and faithfully as priests for the Lord and his Church.

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An old and wise priest once told me that if a priest is happy in his first parish, there will never be one quite like it for the rest of his ministry. We know, Fr Tony, that you were happy here – as all of us are. So I salute you: the 159th curate of St Patrick's, as you will always be! And hope that you will remember and pray for flock you have tended with such care. Thank you for your service here. We wish you well in Lenadoon; we will pray for you. And may you know many, many decades ahead.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

New BBNI online Resource Centre

On Friday morning Boys' Brigade Northern Ireland launched a new online resource area to equip their leaders with activities, crafts, videos, stories and themed nights for their BB company nights.

Designing, writing and pulling together the initial set of resources to put on the site has been a huge project which involved all the BBNI staff team as well as volunteer leaders and partner organisations. Huge thanks to everyone involved and in particular to Engagement Officer and Programme Co-ordinator Bethany Smyth for leading this project.

Thanks also to MXB Agency for developing the area as an extension to our main BBNI website.

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BBNI will continually adding resources to the site, to ensure that great ideas are shared. If you've any suggestions for games and activities suitable for Boys' Brigade please let BBNI know



Register:
www.bst.ac.uk

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Fees Apply

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Faith, Theology & Apologetics: Learning from C. S. Lewis - Day Conference

Join Professor Alister McGrath for a C.S. Lewis Day Conference and the Launch of Belfast School of Theology



Prof Alister McGrath Conference

Faith, Theology & Apologetics: Learning from C. S. Lewis

Worship Led By New Irish Arts

Day Conference
Friday 13th September
9.30am - 3.30pm

At Belfast School of
Theology & Online

In Person Spaces Limited
Lunch Provided



**Faith, Theology & Apologetics: Learning from C. S. Lewis -
Day Conference**

Date: Friday, 13th September 2024

Time: 9.30am - 3.30pm

Location: Belfast School of Theology + Online

Cost: £55 (Full Day) // £25 (Online)

Register: <https://www.bst.ac.uk>

September 2, 2024

Join Prof. Alister McGrath, former Oxford professor and renowned theologian, for an enriching day exploring C.S. Lewis' impact on faith, theology, and apologetics. Expect stimulating lectures, interactive discussions, and networking opportunities. Worship led by Jonathan Rea and New Irish Arts. Lunch Provided. Limited Spaces.

Belfast School of Theology

Official Launch Event With Prof Alister McGrath

Worship Led By New Irish Arts

Evening Event
Friday 13th September
7.30pm

At Orangefield Presbyterian
& Online

464 Castlereagh Rd,
Belfast BT5 6BH

Free Event



**Belfast School of Theology Launch with Professor
Alister McGrath - Evening Event @ Orangefield**

September 2, 2024

Date: Friday, 13th September 2024

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Orangefield Presbyterian Church + Online

Cost: Free (Registration Required)

Register: <https://www.bst.ac.uk>

Celebrate the launch of Belfast School of Theology with an inaugural lecture by Prof. Alister McGrath on the role of theology today. Enjoy worship led by Jonathan Rea and New Irish Arts, a networking reception, and learn about the school's vision. Open to all.

Tullamore Lego Building Bible Club

Click on the link to register for our Masterbuilders Lego Building Bible Club.

It's free. Everyone welcome!

<https://form.jotform.com/222355710395051>

Parish Development Coordinator sought by St Mark's Dundela

Interested in joining our team? We're looking to appoint a Parish Development Coordinator to support outreach and growth, particularly with young people and families.

Download the job description and spec from our website at <http://dundela.down.anglican.org/admin.html>

Letters of application, including CV demonstrating the essential criteria, must be received by Monday 23 September at 12 noon. Email completed applications to office.dundela@down.anglican.org.

Perspective

We are custodians of our fragile environment - Bishop Hayes

This Sunday, 1 September, heralded the beginning of the Season of Creation.

This six-week annual celebration is an opportunity for conversion and commitment to help renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation.

This ecumenical season runs from the World Day of Prayer for Creation on Sunday, to the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology and the environment, on 4 October.

The theme for this year's Season is 'To hope and act with creation.' The Vatican's message states: "To hope in the biblical context does not mean to remain still and silent, but to groan, to cry out and to struggle actively for a new life in the midst of difficulties. Creation and all human beings are called to worship the Creator, working for a dynamic future from which the first fruits of hope can spring."

Speaking ahead of the upcoming Church season, Bishop Martin Hayes, Bishop of Kilmore and Episcopal Coordinator for Laudato Si' said: "We are the custodians of our fragile environment on behalf of our children and their children. So let's hope and act with creation. The important thing is to begin, and don't be afraid to partner with your family, friends and parishioners.

"To support everyone, the Bishops' Conference has provided user-friendly resources, including a guide to Sunday liturgies, activities that can be undertaken by families or children's groups, and a blessing of the animals for the Feast of Saint Francis. All across the island, from Kerry to Meath to Kilmore to Derry, parishes and dioceses are celebrating the season each in their own unique way."

Each year bespoke resources are prepared by the Laudato Si' Working Group, a team of interested and active people, who are supported by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. These resources are designed to inform and support creation initiatives in dioceses, parishes and families at home.

In 2015, Pope Francis published Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home, the first papal encyclical on care for creation. It became a best seller in Ireland and in many countries. Laudato Si' is a blueprint which encourages "every person living on this planet" (LS, 3) to listen to the signs of the times, to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, to listen to the science and to the call of our faith.

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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

Church News Ireland

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Posted early Monday to Saturday

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