

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Super Mario at Belvoir Church

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Super Mario at Belvoir Church

Super Mario was the special guest in a Sunday Funday service very much geared towards children.

'He' brought much fun and hilarity, along with reflections on Summer Madness and Camp Belvoir.

“Catherine ably used Mario's games to teach us about our journey of Christian faith, with reference to Hebrews ch 12 ('A great cloud of witnesses') and Philippians ch 3”.



This is not the reason the Rector, Rev Adrian McCartney swapped his cassock for a safety vest.



“It was a true delight to be part of the warm fellowship, and to have so many children and babies among us! The youngest was little Leo, 5 weeks old, a wee brother for Luka! Praise God for the gift and uninhibited joy of children” a parishioner commented.

People and places



Castleknock and Mulhuddard's upbeat Sunday

On Sunday morning Mothers' Union in Castleknock and Mulhuddard made their commitment to the local branch and wider Mothers' Union.

“It was wonderful to have Ada share with us as Diocesan President about the work of MU. Thanks to Anne our Branch

September 20, 2023

Chair and all the committee and members for such a lovely service.

“In the afternoon in St Thomas’, Mulhuddart Rev Eugene Griffin, a former Curate was the preacher at the first of our Harvest Festival Services. It was great to see the church filled and thanks to Sadie and all the helpers for the beautiful decoration of the church. Despite the rain we were able to share in refreshment’s after the service”.



Dry run in Raphoe Cathedral for Dean-elect

Members of Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union made their way to St Eunan's Cathedral in Raphoe on Sunday afternoon for the annual Mothers' Union Diocesan



Festival Service.

The service was led by the Diocesan MU Chaplain, Rev Liz Fitzgerald, who next

weekend, in the same church, will be installed as the new Dean of Raphoe Cathedral.

During the service, the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, commissioned 10 new Diocesan MU

September 20, 2023

officers: Kaye Nesbitt, Rita Smyth and Rev Rosie Diffin as Vice-Presidents; Kay Clarke, Jean Thompson and Diane White as Unit Coordinators; Get West as Social Policy Contact, Raphoe; Anita Hill as Social Policy Contact, Derry; and Hazel McGilligan and Heather Houston as Area Secretaries.

The congregation was addressed by the Mission Director of the Church Missionary Society of Ireland, Jenny Smyth.

Music was provided by the cathedral organist, Renee Goudie.

NI Prison Service remembers Covid victims

Dr Nigel Carr MBE DL has represented HM Lord Lieutenant at a poignant Service to commemorate members of the NI Prison Service Family who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Service at St Anne's Cathedral was led by The Dean of Belfast, The Very Rev Stephen Forde.

From An Garda Siochana to Ordination

The Rev Mike Buchanan, was ordained as a deacon by Bishop Pat Storey in St Mary's Church, Navan on the afternoon of Sunday 10 September.



The preacher was Canon John Clarke, rector of Navan, where Mike will also serve. Mike (right) was a Sergeant in An Garda Siochana, before retiring.



Made deacon for Mount Merrion

The Revd David (Dave) Thomas has been made deacon for an internship in Mount Merrion Church.

September 20, 2023

The service was to have taken place in August but Covid struck, forcing a postponement.

Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore ordained Mr Thomas in his home church of St John's, Orangefield, on Sunday 17 September. The address was given by the Ven Roderic West, Archdeacon of Dromore.



To be Priest-in-charge in Monkstown Parish

The Rev Nathan Ervine, curate in St Nicholas', Carrickfergus, has been appointed priest-in-charge of the Parish of Monkstown, Diocese of Connor.



Tralee and Dingle welcome Limerick Dean

Tralee and Dingle welcomed The Very Rev Niall Sloane to St John's on Sunday as their rector Rev Jim preached in the Cathedral in Limerick.

The Dean exchanges with other members of the chapter. Pictured here with David Tough who assisted at the service.

Church News Ireland

News reports



Holy Land pilgrimage to be led by Archbishop of York next June

The Most Revd Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of Jerusalem, the Dean of York, Dominic Barrington and Archbishop Stephen gave a short presentation and reflection on the Holy Land pilgrimage which is to be led by Archbishop Stephen next June.

Archbishop Hosam spoke of the encouragement and hope, saying the greatest gift is walking in community.

September 20, 2023

Following in the footsteps of the first disciples, the pilgrimage will take in the lands in which the gospel narrative unfolded. There will also be the opportunity to meet some of the Christians of the Holy land today, and to learn of their mission and ministry.

The Holy Land 2024 Pilgrimage with the Archbishop of York will be 3-12 June 2024. To find out more and for booking details, please visit:

The Holy Land 2024 Archbishop of York – Lightline Pilgrimages.

<https://www.lightline.org.uk/tour/the-holy-land-2024-archbishop-of-york/>



The poster features a photograph of the Kilmakee Presbyterian Church building with a large white cross in the foreground. The text is as follows:

**Kilmakee
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
KILMAKEE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Open House

**Saturday morning
30th September from 10:00 to 12:00**

**Drop in for a chat, bring
the kids, relax - have tea or
coffee and a sausage sandwich
*with our compliments***

New Marian Garden at Ampleforth

A new Marian Garden, funded by a donation, has opened to the public in the grounds of Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire.



The poster features a red background with white text and a circular painting of Samson and Delilah. The Irish Doctors Choir logo is in the top left corner. The text includes the venue, title, composer, date, time, performers, and director.

 **SPECIAL EVENT.....**

CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL WATERFORD

SAMSON
An Oratorio by
George Frederick Handel



SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 3.30PM

IRISH DOCTORS CHOIR
with French Baroque
ENSEMBLE PULCINELLA
Led by Ophélie Gaillard Cello

Eamonn Mulhall Samson Aisling Kenny Dalila
Doreen Curran Micah Pauls Putninš Manoa

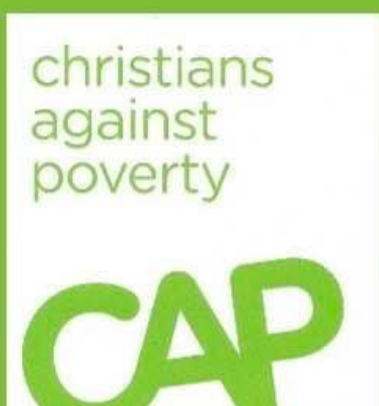
Directed by Brian MacKay

Tickets are on sale NOW at the
Theatre Royal (via the Box Office or [online](#))

September 20, 2023

The informal garden, approached via an avenue of cherry trees, includes a statue of the Virgin Mary surrounded by trees, flowers, and semi-closed seating with gates made from oak grown on the Ampleforth estate at the entrance to the garden.



You are invited to a
Coffee morning

When? 10.30am – 12.30pm Saturday 23rd September
2023

Where? St Nicholas' Church Halls, Cadogan Park,
Belfast (behind the Fire Station on Lisburn Road)

Why? To raise funds for the running of the South and
West Belfast Debt Centre.



September 20, 2023

The monastic community gathered for midday Office in August, when Abbot Robert Igo blessed the garden.

The Abbey is currently being renovated with a new visitor centre experience, tea room and gift shop opening next spring.

In the media

Bereaved families warn over dangers over 'lethal' drugs

BBC News Spotlight - The mothers of two young people who died after taking suspected "extra-strength" pills say people need to be aware street drugs are "lethal".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66820237>

Northern Ireland origin of Garda Association vote

Last week's vote of no confidence in Drew Harris by the Garda Representative Association would not have happened if he were not from Northern Ireland, a leading commentator has claimed.

Speaking to *Newstalk Breakfast*, journalist Alison O'Connor said she believes Gardaí have issues that "need to be sorted" but feels there is an uneasiness about Drew Harris' background as a Northern Protestant as well.

"I think the very fact of having a confidence vote in the Commissioner would never have happened if Drew Harris was from Cahersiveen or Cork or Clare," she said.

September 20, 2023

“I think the fact that he was from North of the border... almost gave permission to the GRA to have that vote.

“Then when I saw the vote, it was a majority in favour, 98.7%, I mean it’s pretty rare you would see a figure that high in ballots such as that, in my experience and the turnout was 85%.” More at

<https://www.newstalk.com/news/no-confidence-vote-in-drew-harris-would-never-have-happened-if-he-werent-a-northerner-1507077?>

Is Anyone Listening?

Catholic Culture - Finally, looking back beyond this past week, I recall the long interview that Archbishop Diarmuid Martin gave to the Irish News. The retired Archbishop of Dublin acknowledged that the Church in Ireland no longer can sway public opinion on issues such as abortion, divorce, and homosexuality. He sees the decline in Catholic influence as the result of taking too strong a stand: “The Church has got so caught up in the dogmatic rights and wrongs, absolute rights and wrongs, that it’s lost the context.” But Archbishop Martin isn’t guilty of that “rigid” approach. Questioned on the possibility of ordaining women priests, he says: “I don’t see, in any way, that women priests will be something we will see in my lifetime.” What message does the reader draw from those telling last words: “in my lifetime” — if not that the Church will eventually accept the progressive agenda? By the way, when Diarmuid Martin became Archbishop of Dublin in 2003, 88.8% of the city’s people were Catholics. When he stepped down in 2021, that figure was 68.3%. However one might characterize his

September 20, 2023

approach to restoring the Church in Ireland, it wasn't successful.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/commentary/is-anyone-listening/>

Trump abortion backlash spotlights a Republican balancing act

BBC News - After Donald Trump labelled Florida's six-week abortion ban a "terrible mistake", he opened himself to attack from powerful conservative activists who want to ban the procedure nationwide. But his comments also revealed the challenges for Republican messaging on one of the country's most polarising issues.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-66850451>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



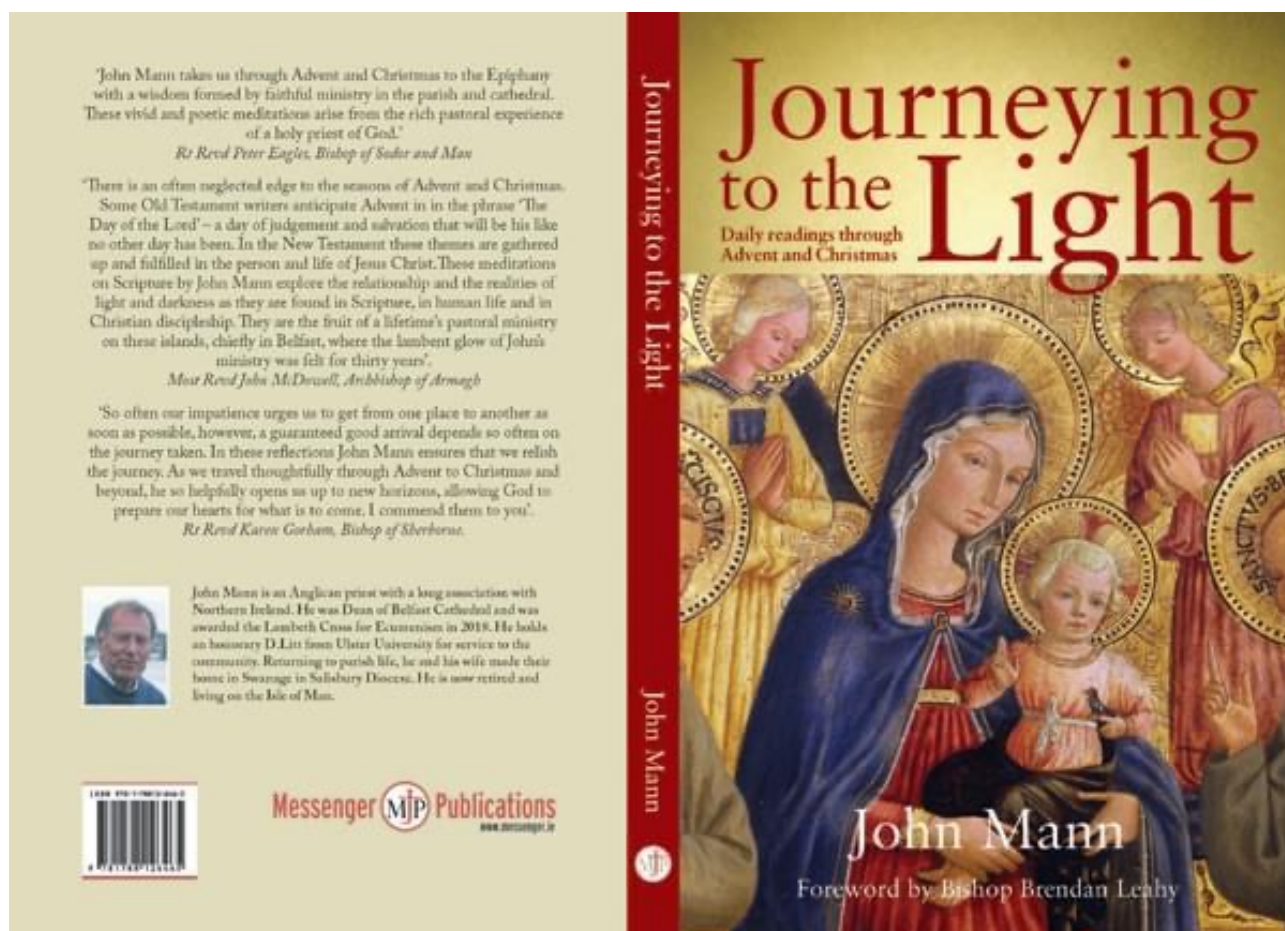
This Season of Creation 2023

Has your church or faith community ever thought of starting a journey towards an Eco-Congregation Ireland Award?

September 20, 2023

Would you like to learn more? All you have to do is drop a line to info@ecocongregationireland.com and they will get in touch with you to help you get started. Check out the 'Getting Started' page on their website to learn about the four steps to an award

<https://www.ecocongregationireland.com/getting-started/>



'Journeying into the Light' – book launch

A former Dean of Belfast John Mann returns to St Anne's Cathedral on Thursday September 28 to launch his book, 'Journeying into the Light.'

Perspective

It was the BBC that helped build Brand's brand - Charles Moore

The BBC, like Channel 4, is now “urgently looking into” what it might have done about Russell Brand when he worked for it. Yet it already knows the main thing it did. It helped make Brand famous and, in 2008, it broadcast, on Radio 2, a pre-recorded programme of Brand and Jonathan Ross leaving four messages on the answering machine of the elderly actor, Andrew Sachs. The relevant BBC executive regarded the broadcast as extremely funny.

In the broadcast phone messages, the pair shrieked that Brand had “f-----” Mr Sachs’s granddaughter (20 years old at the time). They pointed out that many grandparents have, next to their telephone, photographs of their nine-year-old granddaughter on a swing. Brand, they said, had “enjoyed” Mr Sachs’s granddaughter on a swing. One of them shouted, “I’ll kill you!” They joshed with one another that they might visit Mr Sachs’s house, “kick in his front door and shout apologies into his bottom”. For such entertainment, the BBC was paying Brand £200,000 a year and the more senior Ross £6 million a year.

People tend to forget that it was precisely the fact that Brand had slept with Mr Sachs’s granddaughter which inspired him and Ross (presumably without her permission) to make the “prank” phone call. That was their idea of the joke. The BBC was facilitating the “culture” on which Brand was trading – one in which he could sexually exploit young women and

build a career on trying to be funny about it, demeaning them in the process. The current specific question – whether a BBC car drove a young alleged victim of Brand to his house – is only one part of the picture. The central point is that a BBC channel with an audience of millions drove this predatory show-off to fame.

At the time, I wrote in this space that I would refuse to pay my television licence fee until the BBC sacked Brand and Ross. I gave the fee (then £139.50) to Help the Aged instead, as a mark of sympathy to Mr Sachs, whom Ross and Brand had teased for being lonely.

First Brand and then eventually Ross did leave the Corporation, but the process was so slow that by that time I had appeared in Hastings Magistrates Court and been fined (so far as I remember) £550 plus £250 towards the BBC's costs for non-payment. Neither Brand nor Ross was disgraced, as both should have been, though Brand did leave for more "alternative" platforms. He now uses this career switch to claim that he is a victim of a campaign by the mainstream media. Actually, that mainstream media indulged him for years – Channel 4 as well as the BBC, a football column in The Guardian, a Newsnight interview with Jeremy Paxman. Comedy: what crimes are committed in thy name!

Perhaps I should explain, for the benefit of Brand's lawyers, that when I say "crimes", I use the word loosely and would not wish to imply that their client has been anything other than utterly lovely to women at all times.

Courtesy Charles Moore, former editor, writing in The Daily Telegraph

September 20, 2023

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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