

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Falcons at Fin Barre's

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Falcons at Fin Barre's

**St Fin Barre's
Cathedral,
Cork, has been
adopted by a
pair of
Peregrine
Falcons.**

A small number
of Church of
England
cathedrals have
their falcons
roosts and
nests on video
cam to enable
online
observation of
this unique
contribution to
cathedral life.



News



Ecumenical ploughing

At the ploughing championship - From L to R - Very L. Rev. Thomas O'Byrne ADM Carlow Cathedral, Bishop Denis Nulty, Archdeacon Alec Purser with his wife Gillian, His Excellency Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor and the Dean of Cashel The Reverend James Mulhall.

BBC Morning Service from Limavady

This Sunday, on BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Radio Foyle, Morning Service will be broadcast from Christ



Church, Drumachose, in Limavady, and led by the rector, Rev Canon Aonghus Mayes (Above).

The service will begin at 10.03am and listeners can play it back afterwards on the BBC website at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00236zg>

Those who appreciate **Choral Evensong** may wish to listen to a service marking the end the BBC Proms at Holy Sepulchre, The Musicians' Church, on Sunday evening.

It includes music by Elgar, McDowall, Howells and lovely Psalm settings and canticles by Stanford.

If you didn't get a chance to listen, you can catch up on BBC Sounds here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0022sm0>

Donegal Presbyterian 350th Anniversary

The Birthday Celebration Weekend is 27th-29th September 2024

The congregation writes - "Join us as we celebrate 350 years since the founding of our congregation at Rathneeny and 200 years in Donegal Town:

Friday 27th September - 7.30pm at Rathneeny Presbyterian with the Moderator & Presbytery Choir

Saturday 28th September - 10.30am Family Walk followed by tea & treats. Meet at Donegal Town Presbyterian.

Sunday 29th September - 7pm at Donegal Town Presbyterian with Rick Hill & Local Choirs."

Ballymena minister at UK Christian Emergency Network

The Reverend Andy Moore, curate assistant of Ballymena Parish attended the recent Christian Emergency Network at NEC Birmingham.

He was energised by the emergency services show, and commented, "Thank you to Christian Emergency Network, the Christian Police Association UK and Firefighters For Christ - Europe Chapter for their support. Here is to day 2."

He also had an encounter with a Mr Graham Cole.



The Reverend Andy Moore with the beard - right and with TV PC

He commented, “They say never meet your hero. Well, they couldn’t be more wrong if they tried. Today I met the one and only, Mr Graham Cole, aka PC Tony Stamp. I grew up watching him several times a week (and still to this day watch old episodes of The Bill).”

“He was the nicest, most courteous person I think I’ve ever had the grace of meeting. A true gentleman....Plus, he liked my beard”

Appreciation of Director of Music in Whitechurch Parish

On Sunday 8th September John Dexter led the Choir for the last time as Director of Music.

“John has been Director of Music in Whitechurch for 23 years and we marked this occasion with a presentation following the service from the choir and also from the parish and select vestry. Both John and Alison will be greatly missed.

“We are delighted that they will still be joining us occasionally and John has offered his services to deputise when needed if he is available! Many thanks to both John and Alison for all they have contributed to the parish, it is impossible to guess the positive impact that they have made over the years”.

Ballymoney church to bless ‘all creatures great and small’

Our Lady and St Patrick’s Catholic Church has organised a Blessing of Animals ceremony on Sunday, September 29.

Parish priest Fr Damian McCaughan created a humorous Facebook video – helped by some puppet friends – to spread the word about the event which will also raise money for local charity Benvarden Animal Rescue Kennels (BARK).

Fr Damian said: “We're having a blessing of animals on Sunday 29th September to mark the Church's Season of Creation – a time when we give thanks to God for all the good things he has given us in the natural world.

"We are taking our inspiration from the great St Francis of Assisi who had a special love for animals.

"It's an opportunity for us to thank God for all the joy that animals bring to our lives. Bring along your pets or animals to the church grounds at 3pm on the 29th to be part of the celebration!"

Owners and their pets are invited to meet outside the church on September 29. Prayers will then be said followed by a procession of pets around the church grounds. Fr Damian will then bless the animals: “If you can bring them and look after them, then I'll bless them – all creatures great and small.”

This will be followed by refreshments and a collection for BARK who, Fr Damian added: “Do such good work right here in this area.”

North Coast stained-glass treasures focus of Treasure Ireland European Heritage Open Day

A participant reports - We had a great day at this year's Treasure Ireland European Heritage Open Days session, celebrating the fascinating blend of art and architecture

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through the theme "Routes, Networks and Connections – Links in our Heritage."

We explored stunning stained-glass treasures of three historic churches on the North Coast. A heartfelt thank you to Dr. David Caron, for guiding us through the captivating stories behind these beautiful windows. It was a truly special moment to hear Dr. Caron



speak in front of the Michael Healy windows and to present the churches with a copy of "Michael Healy 1873-1941: An Túr Gloine's Stained Glass Pioneer."

A special thanks to the incredible volunteers at the wonderful churches – Billy Parish Church, Castlerock Christ Church, and St. Patrick's Church, Coleraine – for opening their doors and sharing their architectural wonders with us.

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We're incredibly grateful to everyone who participated and to our funders The National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland and Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division for making this Treasure Ireland session possible. Stay tuned for more exciting opportunities as we continue to uncover the rich heritage of churches!



Join the church heritage movement: enjoy hundreds of interesting days out visiting some of the best church heritage:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore/northern-ireland>

Made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to National Lottery players.



Treasure Ireland is also supported by the Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division.



For Treasure Ireland grants, support and training:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support-northern-ireland>

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/training/current-sessions>

Life-changing break through Mothers' Union's AFIA scheme

Sarah and her 10-year-old son, Michael, experienced a life-changing break through the Mothers' Union's "Away From It All" (AFIA) scheme.

After years of battling substance misuse, Sarah had finally reached a year of sobriety.

Her social worker saw the AFIA program as the perfect opportunity for Sarah and Michael to reconnect and heal.

The caravan holiday they took allowed them to step away from their struggles and enjoy simple, joyful moments together—swimming, biking, and most importantly, rebuilding their bond.

This trip wasn't just a holiday; it was a turning point in Sarah's and Michael's journey toward a brighter future. Michael could even go back to school and say he had been on holiday for the first time.

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There are countless stories of families benefitting from AFIA, since 1961, and we're so thankful for the work of Mothers' Union branches and members gifting these incredible breaks to those who need them the most.

 Name changed.

Cathedral Calls

Anglican Communion Forest exhibition at Westminster Abbey

The Anglican Alliance, comments - We had the pleasure of visiting Westminster Abbey to experience their Communion Forest exhibition, running from July 22nd to September 8th, in the glorious setting of the Chapter House.

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Westminster Abbey has been a strong supporter of The Communion Forest initiative since its launch two years ago.

Westminster Abbey describes the event as “An exhibition welcoming you to explore the beauty of the natural world and the ongoing efforts of the Communion





Forest to preserve it. Embark on a journey of stewardship, renewal and faith at the Communion Forest exhibition, where the Anglican Communion's commitment to environmental conservation comes to life.

“From Kenya to Australia, Tanzania to India, this exhibition celebrates the beauty and biodiversity of forests while highlighting the pressing need for their protection. This unique showcase celebrates the intersection of spirituality and environmentalism, highlighting the practical and symbolic efforts of Anglican communities worldwide to protect and restore the Earth.”

To learn more about the Communion Forest and how you can get involved, please visit: www.communionforest.org

Huge LEGO Sagrada Familia

Created by Nicky Heys

<https://tinyurl.com/2baezcxn>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



‘Understanding the Sacraments’ publication launched at St Peter’s Cathedral

Following a time of prayer in St Peter’s Cathedral guests moved across to the St Comgall’s Centre for the book launch.

Bishop Alan Mc Guckian SJ was invited by Council 36 of the Order of the knights of Columbanus to launch their latest publication ‘Understanding the Sacraments’.



Written by Fr Martin Graham Administrator, St Peter's Cathedral with images kindly provided by Father Brian Waters, CC, St Peter's Cathedral Parish the publication has been particularly welcomed as a resource for parishioners, parents and schools.

The book is produced in a

way to illustrate the beauty and meaning of the sacraments in an accessible and meaningful way.

Church planting taster day

The Church Planting Taster Day on 16 November 2024 in Maynooth Community Church is for congregations with a vision to plant elsewhere, and also for individuals feeling drawn to church planting.



For more details including registration, please visit:
<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/churchplanting>

Community Futures conference in Gort will consider Christian citizenship

The United Diocesan Council of Tuam and Limerick is holding a one-day conference, Community Futures, which will be held on Saturday, 16th November, in the Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort, from 10am to 4pm.

It is aimed specifically at the 25–50 age group, and will address some of the social and political topics that are of significant concern for this age group, in relation to Christian citizenship in contemporary Ireland.

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Community Futures will encourage the Church to be transformed by the voices of young adults, while simultaneously providing a space in which these adults have an opportunity to realise the transformational potential of the Church in their own lives. Topics discussed will include: ethical agriculture, welcome/sanctuary, a shared island, mental health and loneliness, the housing crisis, and inclusion and funding in the arts.

Heritage

Billy Parish home of William Quigg VC

The Parish of Billy is in the north of Connor Diocese. It is the last earthly resting place of William Quigg VC. The newspapers of the time tell of his bravery and the particular link he had with his bishop.

The Ballymena Weekly Telegraph - 16th September 1916 - carried the Bishop's tribute to the Ulster Division and Private Quigg VC

It is with great delight, writes the Bishop of Down (Right Rev Dr D'Arcy) that I note that our gallant Ulster Division has now the high honour of winning three VC's, the most coveted distinction in the British Army. Those who know tell me that almost every man in the Division is worthy of a VC, so splendid has been the courage exhibited by the officers and men.

Will you let me give a special tribute of admiration to the heroic exploits of Private. R Quigg of Carnkirk near Bushmills, in saving so many lives, and exerting himself so nobly to find Sir Harry Macnaghten ?

As a former rector of Billy, the parish of which Private Quigg V.C. is a native, it gives me the greatest pleasure to join in the chorus of appreciation which his actions have so justly evoked.

Reception to Private Quigg

On the 4th January 1917 Robert Quigg arrived in Bushmills on two weeks leave. A report of Robert's homecoming was published in the Northern Whig on the 5th January 1917

One of the three V.C. heroes of the Ulster Division, Private Robert Quigg, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Central Antrim Volunteers) was enthusiastically greeted by the people of Bushmills and district on his homecoming from France on a fortnight's furlough. Private Quigg and his parents and sisters accompanied by Rev. Francis Medcalf M.A., rector of Dunluce, took their seats in a brake headed by the Bushmills Flute Band and followed by a jubilant crowd they made a circuit of the town. There were repeated cheers for the hero. A brief halt was made at the Diamond where Mr. David McNeill, J.P. and Rev. Francis Medcalf spoke of the gallantry of Private Quigg. Rev. Mr Medcalf said they were proud of the brave soldier as a Volunteer, as an Orangeman and as an Ulsterman.

Mr J. L. Taggart, J.P. then motored Private Quigg and the members of his family to their home at Carnkirk, about two

miles from town. In the evening the band of which Private Quigg was a member before enlistment, turned out in honour of his homecoming.

The following is the thrilling story of the heroic act for which Private Quigg was awarded the V.C. and Russian and French decorations:- He advanced to the assault with his platoon three times. Early next morning, hearing a rumour that his platoon officer Second-Lieutenant Sir Harry Macnaughton, elder son of Lady Macnaughton, Dundarave, Bushmills was lying out wounded he went out seven times to look for him under heavy shell and machine-gun fire each time bringing back a wounded man. The last man he dragged in on a waterproof sheet from within a few yards of the enemy's wire. He was seven hours engaged in this most gallant work, and finally was exhausted that he had to give up.

Writing of Private Quigg's heroism, Sir Edward Carson paid him this glowing tribute :- "His splendid services to his King and country, his exemplary courage and his unflinching bravery have won glory and undying honour not only for himself, but for his whole country and especially for Ulster. I recall with pride that Private Quigg was a member of the U.V.F. at the outbreak of the war, and joined his Majesty's forces to preserve that freedom and liberty which is so dear to every Ulsterman.

A public testimonial to Private Quigg in recognition of his gallantry has been got up in Bushmills and district. Over £200 has been raised and the money invested for the V.C. in war loan stock. At a meeting to be held next week he will

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also be made the recipient of some little souvenir from the residents in the town and district.

Local tribute

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II unveiled the statue commemorating Sergeant Robert Quigg V.C., in Bushmills, on 28 June 2016.

Private Robert Quigg, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 1 July 1916, the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. He went out seven times looking for his platoon commander, Lieutenant Harry Macnaughton, who was reported missing, and on each occasion brought back an injured soldier.

The life-size bronze statue dressed in WW1 uniform, standing 'at ease' holding a rifle, stands on a plinth of seven Causeway stones, representing the seven soldiers Robert Quigg rescued from the battlefield.

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

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