

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Mussenden Temple

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Mussenden Temple

Introducing **CNI Heritage** featuring aspects of this wonderful island of Ireland. Mussenden Temple is located in the beautiful surroundings of Downhill Demesne near Castlerock in County Derry, Northern Ireland. See below page 11.

People and places

Belleek Controlled Primary School prayer garden officially opened

A colourful garden featuring sensory plants and a prayer space has been created at Belleek Controlled Primary School involving the entire school community but also the Church of Ireland parishes from the Garrison group.

One of the driving forces behind the environmental project was Revd Rebecca Guildea, Rector of the Garrison Group, who has children attending the school, who completed a series of sponsored runs over three months last year to raise part funding to be matched by the Church of Ireland Board of Education. As a result of the fundraising, Revd



Rebecca raised well in excess of the target, with £1500 donated to towards the project.

The official opening of the garden took place on Tuesday, 26 September when the ribbon was cut by local woman, Sue Deacon, who had been assisting with garden design since the initial idea was suggested.

Also participating in the opening was the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. John Ovens, as well as principal, Mrs Nicola Young

Click here for fuller story -

http://clogher.anglican.org/News/newsevent.php?id=1267&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook



Service to launch Kildare Centre of Mission

You are invited to the launch of Kildare Centre of Mission (KCOM) which will be formally launched on Tuesday 17th October, 2.30pm, at a special Service of Dedication in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare.

September 29, 2023

The preacher will be the Chief Executive Officer of Church Army UK and Ireland, Ven Dr Peter Rouch.

The work of the KCOM began in September 2022 with the appointment of Rev Philip McKinley as Lead Evangelist. In April 2023, Kelley Bermingham was appointed as Pioneer Evangelist and in June 2023, Very Rev Isobel Jackson was appointed Dean of Kildare and Rector of Kildare and Newbridge Group of Parishes.

The need for a Centre of Mission in the Diocese of Meath & Kildare arose from the 2018 Diocesan Strategic Review, undertaken by Church Army. It was also seen as complimenting the Meath and Kildare Diocesan Vision Statement; 'Together in God's love transforming lives'.

The aim of the KCOM is to establish an outreach/spiritual tourism presence at St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare. KCOM also serves a community that has high levels of need and significant population growth.

The ultimate vision of the KCOM is to see community transformation through effective outreach. This is done through a mutual relationship of sharing between Church Army and the Diocese of Meath and Kildare. It also seeks to creatively and effectively share faith in words and actions to the community of Kildare and surrounding areas. It reaches out to the many spiritual tourists who visit St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare on an annual basis particularly focusing on the years 2023-24 which marks the 1500th anniversary of St Brigid's death.

September 29, 2023

KCOM also plans to deliver a range of community outreach initiatives, programmes and pioneer contextually appropriate Church, for all ages that enables people's faith journey. It seeks to grow the inherited church community so that their communal life both deepens their faith in Christ and meets the needs of those who do not currently attend church.

Bishop Pat Storey has acted as a strong advocate for the development of the KCOM and the diocesan partnership with Church Army, having taken a very hands-on approach to commissioning the diocesan review.

All are warmly welcome to attend the Service of Dedication and to learn more about the work of the KCOM in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare.

New Safeguarding Coordinator In Down & Dromore

Jane Beaney has joined the staff team on a part-time basis as Diocesan Safeguarding and Compliance Coordinator.

Jane brings a wide variety of experience, skills and gifts to her role – read on to find out more!

Meet Jane - "I am married to Paul, and we have 3 amazing boys aged from 14 down to 6. I've been working as a teacher for 20 years and also volunteering with Youth and Children's ministry in my home parish in Newtownards. For the last 18 months I had the privilege of serving in St John's Orangefield as Under 18's Ministry Coordinator. I



loved being part of the staff team there as well as getting to know so many wonderful families. I've also recently completed the Diocesan Evangelist Course.

“Having grown up in the Church of Ireland (as a child my home Parish was St Mary’s in Comber), getting the opportunity to work for the diocesan team is a real honour that I am very excited about!

“I am looking forward to getting to know more about our brilliant parishes and to support the wonderful workers and volunteers who serve so faithfully. All prayers are very welcome for our family as we embark on this new chapter.

Contact details

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Church News Ireland



New Minister for First Rathfriland Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Rodney Moody, his wife Eimear, son Michael and daughter Megan have been welcomed to First Rathfriland Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Moody was installed as Minister of the Congregation on Thursday 14th September, with his first service as Minister in Charge on Sunday 17th September at 11.30am.

“If you are travelling or visiting in the Rathfriland area, we would like to extend an invitation to you to join with us on Sunday mornings at 11.30am. We offer Creche facilities as well as Sunday School for young people”.

Dean of Armagh in tune at Thanksgiving service marking Down, Dromore and Connor Organ Scholarship endeavour

The annual Scholarship Choral Evensong Service was held in St Columba's Parish Church, Knock, on Sunday September 17.

The Service of Evensong celebrated the Board, tutors and scholars of the Organ Scholarship Scheme which, generously funded by an anonymous benefactor, is a scheme that trains organists for three years in service of public worship.

In his sermon, the Very Rev Shane Forster, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, spoke about the nuanced role of a church organist and the sadly increasing number of churches which find themselves poorer without them.

Church musicians, through music, draw the congregation to worship God with hearts and voice and experience the fellowship of singing together, Dean Forster said.

He reminded the congregation, from the fate of Uzzah (1 Chronicles 13:1–14), of the importance of obedience to God's instructions in worship, finishing with the poignant image of Jesus singing a hymn, in fellowship with his disciples, before he went to pray on the Mount of Olives.

At the end of the service, the two scholars who have now completed the course, David Dunlop (All Saints', Belfast)



St Columba's Parish Church, Knock

and Tanya Zachara (St Mark's, Dundela) were presented with certificates (pictured above).

There are currently nine scholars: Year 1: Helen Neale, St Mark's, Dundela; Rachel Smyth, St John's, Malone; Laura Smyth, St John's, Malone. Year 2: Katy McKnight, Holy Trinity, Portrush; Lucy Steele, St Aidan's, Glenavy. Year 3: Larissa Fleck, St Patrick's, Armoy; Clare Kelly, St Patrick's, Jordanstown; Dr Mark McKinty, St Cedma's, Larne & Inver; and Grace Steed – St Mark's, Dundela.

Tanya Zachara said of the scheme: “As a former organ scholar, a few words of encouragement to anyone else who might consider applying for this scheme or beginning any other musical journey.

“I feel a sense of awe when I look back at how God responded to a single, earnest prayer that God would use the small, insignificant musical ability that I had, for his glory.

“It would never have occurred to me then that I might one day be supporting a congregation on the organ, when not so long ago, I was too nervous to play the piano to an audience of even one person; singing in a choir when once upon a time I mimed the words of hymns in church services because I couldn’t bring myself to sing out loud.”

Tanya added: “It is never too late to start, or restart, or continue. A joyful noise is better than a flawless one. And the best thing is that, when it comes to worship, we are all beginners, and there is no time limit, no endpoint to growth and to service.”

Heritage

Mussenden Temple and Downhill Demesne

Mussenden Temple is located in the beautiful surroundings of Downhill Demesne near Castlerock in County Derry. Northern Ireland.

It perches dramatically on a 120 ft cliff top, high above the Atlantic Ocean on the north-western coast of Northern Ireland, offering spectacular views westwards over Downhill

September 29, 2023

Strand towards Magilligan Point and County Donegal and to the east Castlerock beach towards Portstewart, Portrush and Fair Head.

Explore Downhill Demesne and enjoy a stunning cliff top walks around this diverse historical site.

Unfortunately Mussenden Temple interior will not be accessible but we hope you enjoy viewing the grandeur of this iconic building from the outside.

The temple was built in 1785 and forms part of the estate of Frederick Augustus Hervey, Bishop of Derry and Earl of Bristol (or the Earl Bishop). The temple was built as a summer library and its architecture was inspired by the Temple of Vesta in Tivoli, near Rome. It is dedicated to the memory of Hervey's cousin Frideswide Mussenden and uniquely reflects the personality of its flamboyant creator.

Both the Temple and the breathtaking views are among the most photographed scenes in Ireland. Over the years the Temple itself was under danger of being lost to the sea due to the erosion of the cliff which brought Mussenden Temple ever closer to the edge. In 1997 the National Trust then carried out cliff stabilisation work to prevent the loss of this lovely building.

Takeaway light refreshments from Al's Coffee hut at Lion's Gate. Parking charges apply. Wheelchair access. Learning facilities. Dogs must be kept on leads.

<https://discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/mussenden-temple-and-downhill-demesne-p675701>

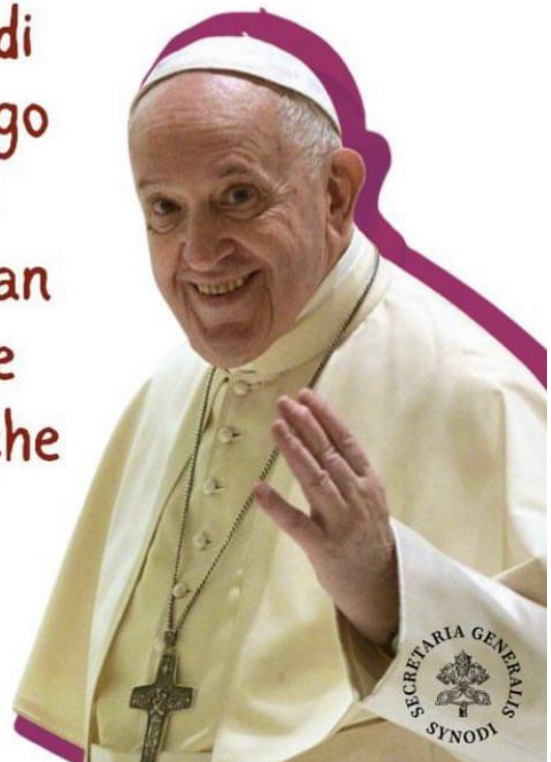
News reports



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Rinnovo l'invito a partecipare alla Veglia Ecumenica di Preghiera che avrà luogo sabato prossimo 30 settembre in Piazza San Pietro in preparazione all'assemblea sinodale che inizierà il 4 ottobre.

Papa Francesco
Angelus 24/09/2023



Irish Bishops ask for prayers ahead of attending the Synod on Synodality in Rome

On Wednesday, representing the Irish Bishops' Conference, Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick, and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Raphoe, travelled to attend the 16th General Assembly of the Synod in the Vatican.

This Synod on Synodality will be attended by Church representatives from around the world and will sit from 4 – 29 October on the theme: 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission'.

Also in attendance will be Rev Professor Eamon Conway, a priest of the Archdiocese of Tuam, who will serve the Synod as an 'Expert and Facilitator', and Sister Patricia Murray IBVM, in her role as Executive Secretary of the International Union of Superiors General.

As they left Ireland, Bishops Leahy and McGuckian reiterated that the Synodal Process is about conversion and, in light of Pope Francis' comment that 'without prayer there will be no Synod', invited people of faith to pray to God over the coming weeks at daily and weekend Masses, at home, and in religious communities, to intercede for Pope Francis and for all members of the Synodal Assembly.

In an interview with iCatholic.ie, Bishop Leahy expressed the Synod as Spirit-inspired by Pope Francis, but that the Holy Father is "really taking up the great inspiration of the Second Vatican Council; that we are the Church as a people." Bishop Leahy said, "We are not primarily the Pope, the bishops and the priests. For too long, maybe, that's been the image that people have had of Church. The

Church is a people. If you want, the model of the people is Mary, and we are to be this people that radiate, like Mary did, the presence of Christ in the world. But we can only do that in our relationships renewed. That is my great hope out of this Synodal Process.”

In terms of his hope for the Synod, Bishop McGuckian reflected that in many ways the process is only a beginning, and will go on throughout our lives. He told iCatholic.ie, “I was excited to see that ‘mission’ was at the very heart of it. Every one of us wants to see the Church alive, and attractive and beautiful in the world. Many of the people who at these things \[faith gatherings] are concerned about faith being passed on to new people. Parents are very concerned, and grandparents are very concerned, that faith will be passed on to their children. That is a big part of the mission of the Church, and outreach. I would love to see us having the beginnings of an experience of communion with Jesus among us, where we will find ways of expressing the truth of the faith in new and powerful ways.”

In the context of the challenges that may arise in discussions during the Synod, Ms Julieann Moran, General Secretary of the Irish Synodal Pathway, said, “A huge part of this has got to be trust. The main protagonist, whether we like it or not, in any synodal process, is the Holy Spirit. We might be gathering together to dialogue, and probably argue – it wouldn’t be the first or last time at a Church council – to tease it all out. People should be the given an opportunity to able to speak their mind, and speak their truth, but that somewhere in that process through the prayer, through the attentive listening, through the intentional speaking, that the Holy Spirit will guide this process. What is right for the

September 29, 2023

Church in the third millennium will be what will come out ultimately from this process.”

This Saturday, Pope Francis will preside over an ecumenical vigil of prayer in Saint Peter’s Square to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I; the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, other Church leaders as well as thousands of Christians from different denominations. The vigil is intended to entrust to the Holy Spirit the work of the forthcoming Synod, and will include listening to the Word of God, praise and intercession, Taizé songs and silence.

Top UK barrister to lead review into collapse of C of E's Independent Safeguarding Board

An independent review into what happened to 'Phase 1' of the Church of England's Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB) is to be led by a top public law barrister.

The ISB was put in place to investigate several cases of clergy or church sexual abuse, alleged to have happened in the Church of England. It attracted national headlines when it imploded earlier this year, after two of its members were suddenly sacked and the interim chairperson resigned, leaving confidential cases unresolved and seemingly no-one assigned to continue delicate support work with vulnerable survivors.

The Archbishops' Council has instructed Sarah Wilkinson, a barrister from Blackstone Chambers, to undertake a review of what went wrong. According to her firm's website, she is an experienced public law practitioner, with more than 10 years experience, who has represented the Government both as sole and junior counsel in a wide range of high-profile judicial review cases.

In a statement the Church of England said Ms Wilkinson's task is to establish "a clear account of the events from the conception, design and establishment of the ISB until the announcement of the termination of contracts of members, establish and identify the reasons for the action to terminate, and identify lessons to be learned based on the findings."

Her review is due to be completed by the end of November and the Church says the Council "will aim to make it public" as soon as possible after that. It says the findings will also inform the work of Professor Alexis Jay on the future of safeguarding within the Church of England.

The announcement of her role and the timescale follows several months of uncertainty for those whose cases were being investigated when Phase 1 of the ISB was abruptly disbanded. A review was announced by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell at a meeting of the Church's parliament - the General Synod - this summer. A protracted session at the event in York saw the two sacked ISB members - Jaswinder Sangera and Steve Reeves finally allowed to speak, but there was a lot of dissatisfaction expressed by survivors and their advocates. Long time Synod member Gavin Drake, a lifelong campaigner for

victims of sexual assault, resigned in protest at the handling of the matter.

In the media

Chief Constable PSNI

I welcome this decision to appoint an interim Chief Constable at Police Service NI. Why has it taken 3 weeks?
Sir George Hamilton, Former Chief Constable

"It would be a brave — or possibly foolhardy — candidate who takes on the job, which even in more stable times was considered one of the toughest policing roles on these islands."

Allison Morris of Belfast Telegraph

The inclusion of a former IRA bomber on a panel responsible for selecting a new PSNI chief constable has been branded "perverse" by **Jim Allister MLA in the News Letter**

The TUV leader said that having Sinn Fein's Gerry Kelly involved in the process is the outworkings of the "constant pandering to republicanism".

Mr Allister said: "What a commentary on our public and policing affairs that an Old Bailey bomber and prison escapee will sit on the selection panel to pick the new chief constable."

September 29, 2023

CNI note - Former chief constable Simon Byrne resigned from the post earlier this month after a High Court judge ruled that two probationer constables had been unlawfully disciplined for an arrest made following an event commemorating the 1992 Sean Graham bookmakers massacre.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

National Churches Trust Places of Worship Forum in Conlig

The next NCT Places of Worship Forum will take place at the historic Conlig Presbyterian Church on October 9 at 11am.

Every church has a story to tell and NCT welcome you to join them for a talk and tour.

Book your FREE place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/places-of-worship-forum-northern-ireland-october-2023-tickets-722057943747>

Love church buildings? Then this event is for you. Refreshments served on the day and you'll receive a SPAB Maintenance Calendar to help you keep on top of those regular maintenance jobs.

On this week's Songs Of Praise

September 29, 2023

Here's what's coming up on this week's Songs Of Praise as Claire McCollum celebrates Harvest at Hazelnut Farm in Bristol and hears how they've brought their church into the great outdoors with gardening as an act of worship. _

1:15pm BBCOne Sunday and bbc.in/2Qlw5uT

Come and Sing Festival Evensong with John Dexter

Saturday October 21st in Sandford Parish Church.

More details to follow soon from Church Music Dublin

Brothers in Arms a best seller - second print run

Peter McVerry SJ did the honours at the official launch of Brothers in Arms (Messenger Publications) by Brendan McManus SJ, Irish Jesuit, and James Fullam, Dublin taxi driver, on Friday 15 September 2023.

The book is already a best seller and in its second print run and all sale proceeds go to the Peter McVerry Trust which works on alleviating homelessness.

Carolanne Henry of Messenger Publications gave a short introduction to the book saying that, for her, its core strength lies in demonstrating clearly and simply how relevant Ignatian spirituality is for people today as they go about everyday life with all its ups and downs.

Five hundred years after St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, walked from Loyola to Manresa in Spain, the pair set out to retrace his steps on the newly established Ignatian Camino. The book is the story of two pilgrims, one

September 29, 2023

saint, totally unexpected adventures, and finding the freedom to follow the path God has revealed.

Speaking at the launch Peter McVerry read extracts from the book that he said gave clear and fresh insights into Ignatian spirituality and its relevance in today's world.

In a live interview with Pat Coyle of Irish Jesuit Communications, the authors regaled the audience at the launch with just a few of the remarkable stories from their pilgrimage, including being rescued by a group of nuns who spoke no English, had never heard of The Beatles but who could certainly drive a big van which brought the pair safely to their next destination.

Brothers in Arms could be described as part travelogue, part Camino-prep for seasoned and unseasoned pilgrims alike, and part hands-on guide to the basics of Ignatian spirituality.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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