

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Eglantine in Cork

Image of the day

All Saints' Eglantine in Cork for ordination

Some parishioners from All Saints' Eglantine travelled down to Cork on Monday for Rev Martin's ordination to the priesthood.

Their Rector, Rev Jason Kernoghan gave this account in their parish Face Book - "We received a wonderful welcome from Bishop Paul Colton, Dean Nigel Dunne, and the people of St Fin Barre's.





Clergy support

In his opening remarks Bishop Paul extended a warm welcome to all those who had travelled great distances to be there and the greatest welcome was extended to Martin. Bishop Paul continued, "We are here to support you with our prayers and with our love. It is a day of rejoicing and celebration. We thank God for you, and we thank God that you have heard his call."

"As part of his sermon, the Most Rev Richard Clarke said, "Martin begins a priestly ministry today. He is given authority for this - the authority of the Church, but primarily the authority of God. An authority of love, of involvement, and of service. But in seeking to fulfil God's ministry through us, we are still called to be authentic. Authentically what God has made us - real people rather than a parody of priesthood,

just as God the Holy Trinity must not be a cardboard cut-out figure in our mind. Nor must the priest be a stylised stereotype of what we imagine clergy are meant to be like. God deserves better from us. So Martin, people can only believe you and trust you when they know you as you are."

"As Bishop Paul said, it was a very emotional service and especially for Martin, for his family and for all of us from Eglantine. We are exceptionally proud of Martin and thankful to God for his ministry among us in Eglantine. Of course we are also very proud that he is one of ours! As we were leaving the Cathedral on Monday evening a lady said that Eglantine's loss was St Fin Barre's gain - Just as the Diocese of Connor's loss is most definitely the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross' gain.

"We stayed until Tuesday and felt honoured to be there for Martin's first Eucharist in the Cathedral".

People and places

Gorey Methodist minister is a blessing from Zimbabwe

Gorey Methodist Church held a welcoming service for its new Minister Reverend Fadzi Jomboro earlier this month

Present at the ceremony were Reverend Mark Forsyth, Reverend David Nixon, Superintendent South East Leinster Circuit, Reverend Andrew Dougherty, Superintendent

September 30, 2023

Southern District of the MCI, and local members of the church.

Reverend Jomboro is a Probation Minister. She is in training to be a fully ordained Minister. Reverend Jomboro, who will be Ministering in Gorey and Arklow, will be continuing her studies for another three years.

“Originally from Zimbabwe, Reverend Jomboro came to Gorey in July. Her name means ‘blessing’ and already she’s been such a blessing to everyone, and she has a lovely outgoing and loving person”, said Val Galloway, a member of the Gorey Churches Together ladies ecumenical group.

“She spreads a wonderful message every Sunday,” said Ms Galloway.

Reverend Jomboro replaces the previous Reverend Katherine Kehoe, who left Gorey in June to minister in Carlow.

St Anthony by a country mile

St Anthony of Padua has been voted Ireland’s most popular saint, defeating even St Brigid, who gave the country its newest bank holiday earlier this year.

The quest to discover the country’s favourite saint was led by Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare and Leighlin who attended this year’s National Ploughing Championship between 19-21 September in Ratheniska, Co Laois.



The children from Lisbellaw and Tattygar Primary Schools (about 53 in total) rehearsing in Lisbellaw Parish Church for today's Harvest Concert.

The diocesan stand invited the tens of thousands of visitors attending the popular farming event to name their favourite saint. St Anthony was the most popular among those who voted, followed by St Brigid in second place, with St Patrick, St Padre Pio and St Thérèse of Lisieux runners up.

Sir Julian King elected as new Co-operation Ireland Chairman

Peacebuilding charity Co-operation Ireland is delighted to announce the election of Sir Julian King GCMG KCVO as its new Chairman.

September 30, 2023

A former Director of the Northern Ireland Office, UK Ambassador to Ireland, France, and the final British European Commissioner before Brexit, Sir Julian was elected Chairman by the Board of Co-operation Ireland at the charity's Annual General Meeting on Friday, September 15.

He will replace Dr Christopher Moran who served as Chairman for 20 years.

Co-operation Ireland CEO Peter Sheridan said, "Sir Julian brings a wealth of experience and dedication to our organisation, and we are excited to have him at the helm as we continue our mission of promoting peace, reconciliation, and cooperation.

"I would also on behalf of the charity like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Christopher Moran for his remarkable two decades of service as Chairman of Co-operation Ireland.

"Dr Moran's leadership has been instrumental in advancing our peace-building efforts, and his unwavering commitment to our cause has left an indelible mark on our organisation. His tireless work has brought communities together and laid the foundation for a more peaceful and united future.

"As we transition to a new era under Sir Julian King's guidance, we remain deeply appreciative of Dr Moran's extraordinary contribution to Anglo Irish relations. We look forward to building upon his legacy and continuing our vital work in the pursuit of lasting peace and reconciliation.



Maintaining St Donard's mission link with Shyogwe Diocese

Members of St Donard's Parish Church's mission committee were able to catch up with Bishop Jered Kalimba from Shyogwe Diocese this week in Portadown.

This longstanding partnership over many years has been a blessing not only to God's people in Shyogwe but to the parish in the heart of east Belfast.

<https://www.facebook.com/StDonardsChurch>

Returning to nature in Killaloe

The Diocese of Killaloe is to pilot a “return to nature” initiative with ten parishes in Co Clare in response to the Irish bishops’ call for parishes to return 30 per cent of church grounds to nature by 2030.

Habitat loss has been identified as one of the main contributors to the decline in biodiversity. Measures will include providing a haven for pollinators, installing bird and bat boxes, native tree planting, eradicating invasive species and reducing pesticide use. The parishes will work in partnership with the Laudato Si’ working group of the bishops’ conference, Clare County Council and the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

SOMA commissioning

You are warmly invited to attend the commissioning of the Rev Henry Blair to the development of SOMA in Ireland, in St. Saviours church, Dollingstown on Thursday 5th October at 7.30pm.

Vacancy: Good Relations Officer, Irish Council of Churches

The Irish Council of Churches (ICC) is advertising a Good Relations Officer post.

September 30, 2023

This is a joint initiative of ICC and the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, supported by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and Benefact Trust.

The ICC is seeking to recruit an exceptional individual who will lead the next phase of its peacebuilding and reconciliation work.

The Irish Council of Churches (ICC) is one of the longest serving established national ecumenical bodies in the world and, with the Irish Inter-Church Meeting, has a long track record of addressing issues of justice, peace, reconciliation and integration.

More information and an application pack is available on the Churches in Ireland website.

[\[https://ctbi.org.uk/vacancy-good-relations-officer-irish-council-of-churches/\]](https://ctbi.org.uk/vacancy-good-relations-officer-irish-council-of-churches/)

Deadline

5pm on Tuesday 24th October 2023.

How to apply -

Ensure that you have completed the application form and return it to:

The President, Irish Council of Churches, 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ

or by email. Signed PDFs by email are acceptable.



Healing services across the Diocese of Down & Dromore

Four healing services were held across the Diocese of Down & Dromore this month. The final service was this week in All Saints Tullylish.

Pictured above L-R: Fergus McMorrow (Divine Healing Ministries), Glynis Matchett (New Wine Ireland), Revd Greg Downes (preacher), Bishop David McClay, Adrian Walker (Tullylish Parish), Revd Gill Withers and Revd Dr Pat Mollan (both CMH: The Mount). The teams are grateful to everyone who gave their time to pray and minister at the services.

New Archdeacon of Clogher

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis announce the name of his new Archdeacon at the Clogher Diocesan Synod which met yesterday.

The new Archdeacon of Clogher is Canon Paul Thompson, Rector of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale, who succeeds Archdeacon Brian Harper, who moved to Connor Diocese to be Rector of Dunluce Parish.

Bishop Ellis described Canon Thompson as having gifts of administration and pastoral care. He is a much-respected Rector in his parishes of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale.

“Within the diocese he is currently our Warden of Readers and Support officer for Lay Ministry. He is a member of Diocesan Council, a Diocesan Nominator and is our representative Canon in St Patrick’s Cathedral Dublin. Canon Paul is a Clogher representative on the RCB and on the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Board. Canon Paul has many other gifts; he maintains a very creative Facebook presence for his parishes, and I know will bring to this role not only experience of parish ministry in Ireland but also many years as Prison Chaplain in the Church of England. The new Archdeacon and I trained together for ministry in Theological College and we have known each other a very long time! I look forward to working closely with Canon Paul in his new role and sharing in the ongoing work of this diocese,” the Bishop said.

The appointment received warm applause from members of Synod.

Bishop Ellis in his presidential address welcomed Synod members in what was his third diocesan Synod.

He referred to the recent tragic deaths of young people on the roads of Co. Monaghan, the review of diocesan organisation which is currently ongoing, current financial tightening in parishes and in the diocese, the work of the Bishops' Appeal responding to world disasters and introduced a talk on the innovative Pioneer Ministry which has been introduced in the Church of Ireland.

The full text of Bishop Ellis's address is at-

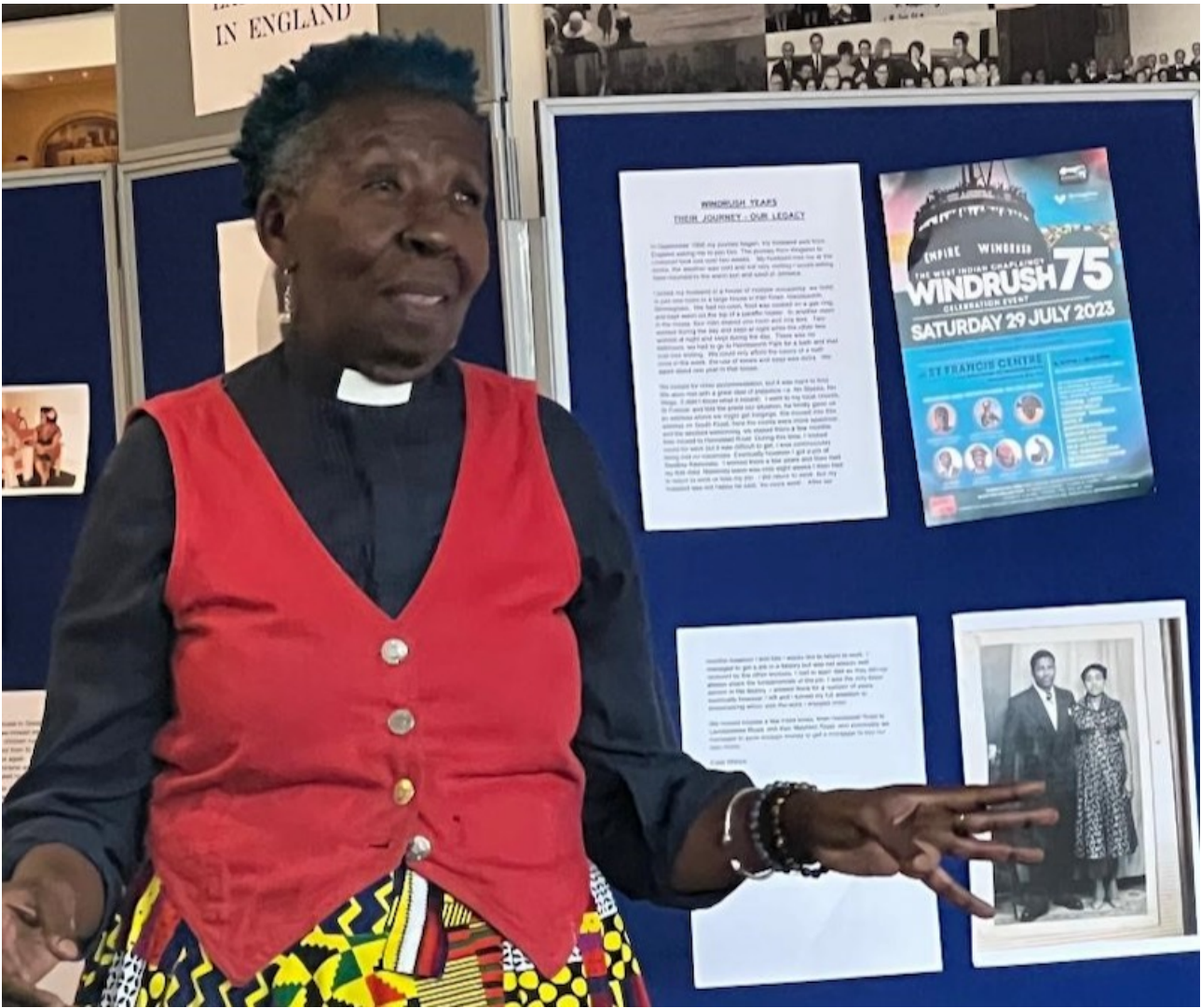
[<https://clogher.anglican.org/News/newsevent.php?id=1268>]

News reports

First black woman ordained in the C of E tells of Windrush generation experiences

The National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) of England and Wales, meeting in Birmingham heard the first black woman ordained as a vicar in the Church of England speak on the experiences of the Windrush generation.

Canon Eve Pitts described how migrants from the Caribbean experienced discrimination in securing



accommodation, in accessing bank loans and mortgages and in discovering they were not always welcome in churches.

Christian organisations against Prime Minister Sunak's watering down of the UK's net zero plans

Christian organisations are among those speaking out against Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's watering down of the UK's net zero plans, announced last week.

They say it will endanger lives around the world by committing the UK to higher emissions for longer. Neil Thorns, director of advocacy at Chafed, highlighted the impact of climate change in East Africa where “we’ve seen the worst drought in over 40 years” and in Pakistan, where families “have had their lives swept away by flooding”. He said, “The UK should be demonstrating leadership on the world stage and countries who caused this mess need to take responsibility.” Christian Aid’s head of UK advocacy and campaigns, Jennifer Larbie, said, “By undermining our climate commitments Sunak is showing a woeful disregard for the world's most vulnerable people – it’s utterly reckless.” Fr John Boles, director of the Columbans, said, “I am ashamed of our government’s failure to take the climate crisis seriously, weakening our progress to net zero.” The change will mean delaying a ban on new fossil fuel cars by five years, weakening plans to strip out polluting gas and oil boilers and scrapping policies forcing landlords to upgrade the energy efficiency of homes.

Ecumenical presence at prayer service for Synod in Rome

Pope Francis will be joined by leaders from Orthodox and Protestant denominations for a prayer service in St Peter’s Square today, Saturday, Patrick Hudson and Ellen Teague write in The Tablet.

The Ecumenical Patriarch and the Archbishop of Canterbury will be among the Church leaders to join Pope Francis at a prayer vigil in St Peter’s Square on Saturday, to entrust the forthcoming synod to the Holy Spirit.



The Church Leaders Group (Ireland) pictured just ahead of the seminar focusing on the role that Church and faith leaders play in peace-building and reconciliation. Really important reflections from the Church Leaders Ireland and those involved in peace making in Africa & Asia. Photo by UK in The Holy See

Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Justin Welby and ten other leaders of Orthodox and Protestant denominations are due to attend, along with several of the fraternal delegates to the synod.

Archbishop Welby said that it was “an opportunity for all of us to come together and inspire change”.

The service, organised by the ecumenical Taizé community, follows celebrations for the cross-denominational Season of Creation and a series of workshops for young adults designed to promote Christian unity.

Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary general for the synod office, wrote to bishops asking that they include a solemn blessing for the synod written by his secretariat at the end of Masses on Sunday, “asking the Lord to enlighten our hearts with the power of His life-giving Spirit so we might discern and do His will”.

The synod begins on 4 October, following a retreat for delegates led by Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP and the Benedictine Abbess Maria Angelini.

On 21 September, the Vatican published the schedule and final list of participants for what is formally the sixteenth Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, with the theme “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission”.

The 363 voting delegates include two bishops from mainland China, whom Pope Francis selected from a list approved by the Beijing authorities, their attendance confirmed close to the fifth anniversary of the Vatican’s agreement with China on the appointment of bishops.

Bishop Joseph Yang Yongqiang of Zhoucun was consecrated in 2010, while Bishop Anthony Yao Shun of Jining was the first bishop consecrated after the 2018 agreement.

September 30, 2023

Cardinal-elect Stephen Chow of Hong Kong and Bishop Norbert Pu of Kiayi in Taiwan will also attend. Chow is one of the 19 bishops (and two priests) to be created cardinals at a consistory on 30 September.

The synod delegates will be joined by 75 facilitator and spiritual assistants, including Professor Anna Rowlands and Dr Austen Ivereigh from the UK.

Speaking last week, Prof Rowlands said that the synod's focus "is on the 'who' of the Church, on the question of the way in which our life itself is focused on mission to the world".

"The Church is the only institution that exists not fundamental for its own members, but for the sake of the conversion and the salvation of all," she said.
Courtesy The Tablet 26/09/2023.

In the media

Gillen restrictions on sex trial reporting would have protected Jimmy Savile and are an affront to justice, say editors

News Letter

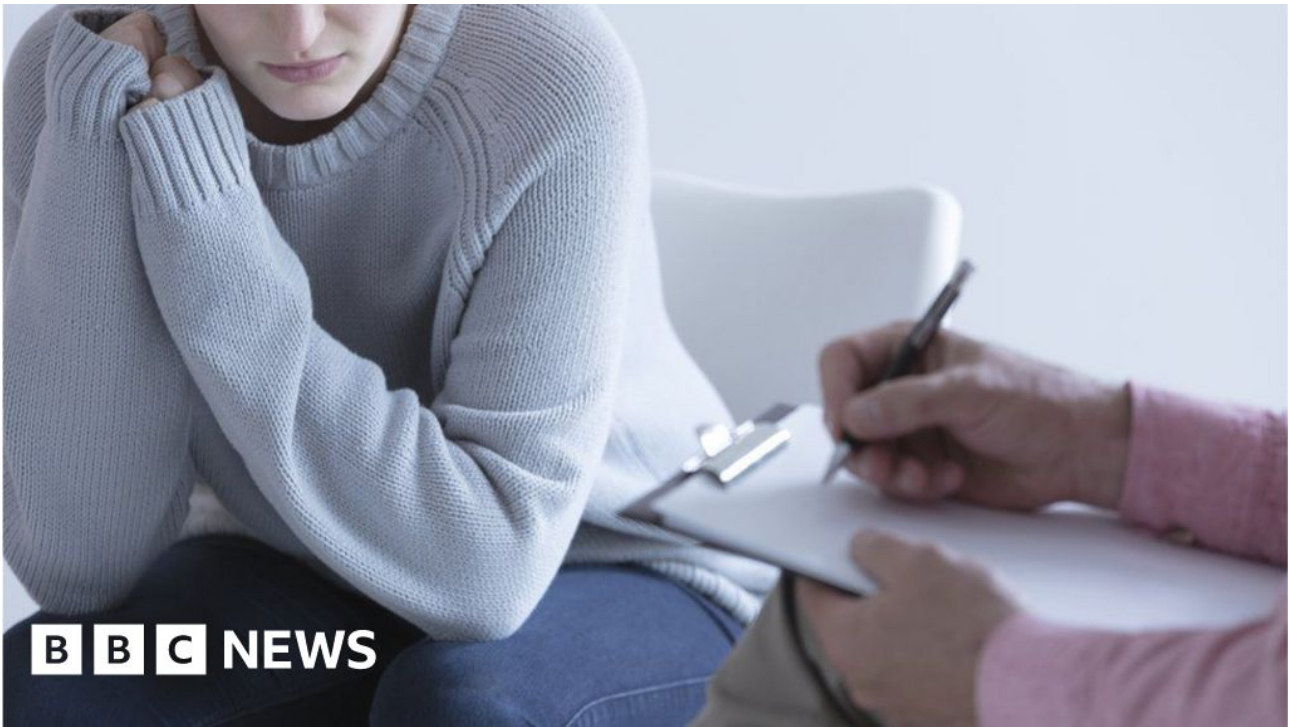
<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/new-gillen-restrictions-on-sex-trial-reporting-in-northern-ireland-would-have-protected-jimmy-savile-and-are-an-affront-to-justice-say-editors-4353097>

Windsor Framework: How will the next stage of the Brexit deal work?

September 30, 2023

BBC - The implementation of the Windsor Framework reaches a major milestone on Sunday when the green lane/red lane system starts operating, but how will it work?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66937192>



Abortion protest buffer zones take effect in NI

BBC - Anti-abortion protests can no longer be held directly outside specific health clinics in Northern Ireland where abortions are carried out. It is now illegal for people to be "impeded, recorded, influenced or to be caused harassment, alarm or distress" directly outside eight health clinics in Northern Ireland where abortions are carried out.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66929864>

Mental health: Teachers in west Belfast take part in wellbeing day

BBC - You're in a role in which you day-to-day take care of others and sometimes you can leave yourself behind."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66929589>

Heritage



The Old Rectory at the Ulster Folk Museum

The Old Rectory is probably one of the most recognisable and picturesque buildings at the Ulster Folk Museum.

The Rectory is one of the UFM's most iconic buildings - Its thatched roof, bright whitewashed walls, light blue window frames and beautifully tended gardens make it instantly recognisable. But do you know where it came from, and who called it 'home'?

Originally from the townland of Lismacloskey in the civil parish of Duneane, about one mile east of Toomebridge in County Antrim on the old road to Randalstown, the house opened to museum visitors in 1973.

There is no written record of when the house was built. A construction date of 1717 was established in 1972 as a result of scientific dating techniques carried out by Queen's University Belfast, who analysed samples of oak timber taken from the roof of the house.

The house was known locally as Gloverstown House. The name Gloverstown suggests that it may have been built for a family named Glover, a common name in the Plantation era. 'The Old Rectory' name that has been attributed to the house is an acknowledgement that it was once the home of a Church of Ireland clergyman, Reverend Robert McCullagh (1770-1824) and his family.

The earliest known inhabitant of the house was Captain Archibald McCallion who is reputed to have fought on the British side during the American War of Independence (1775-1783). Following his return from the war, he came to live at Lismacloskey for a number of years. According to McCullagh family tradition he, or his successor, was evicted from the house because they failed to pay their rent.

Reverend Robert McCullagh

The next known inhabitants of the house were a Church of Ireland family. The head of the family was the Reverend Robert McCullagh. Originally from a farming family who resided in the vicinity of Dungiven, County Londonderry,

September 30, 2023

Robert was a graduate of Trinity College Dublin. He served as tutor-chaplain to the Jones family of Moneyglass (close to Lismacloskey) for a time before securing his position as Curate of the Parish of Duneane.

Robert's wife was Jane McCullagh (née Edgar). The couple had a large family of twelve children. Robert is purported to have extended the house in the early 1800s by building a new gable to the south. He is also thought to have closed up a number of windows in order to reduce the amount of window tax he had to pay. Robert died following a sudden fatal fit of apoplexy in 1824, on the day his twelfth child Frederick was born.

Robert and Jane's eldest son Robert died suddenly; another son became an Anglican curate in Birkenhead, where he died unmarried at the age of 33; a third son was an accountant with the Great Northern Railway in Ireland; and a fourth son, David, at a later date was the tenant of a neighbouring farm in Lismacloskey, known locally as McKeever's.

→ Learn about the McCullagh family here

[<https://www.ulsterfolkmuseum.org/stories/mccullagh-family>]

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 30, 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/>

Perspectives: 'I often wonder how I would face difficult days without faith'

Ruth Mathews is a Methodist minister in training, from Portarlington, Co Laois. She was interviewed in the Belfast Telegraph by Alf McCreary.

Ruth talks about her faith journey, knowing God's presence in the most difficult moments and hearing God's voice in Uganda.

You can read the full interview here: <https://buff.ly/3RHFw0i>

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

September 30, 2023