

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Greenisland prayers

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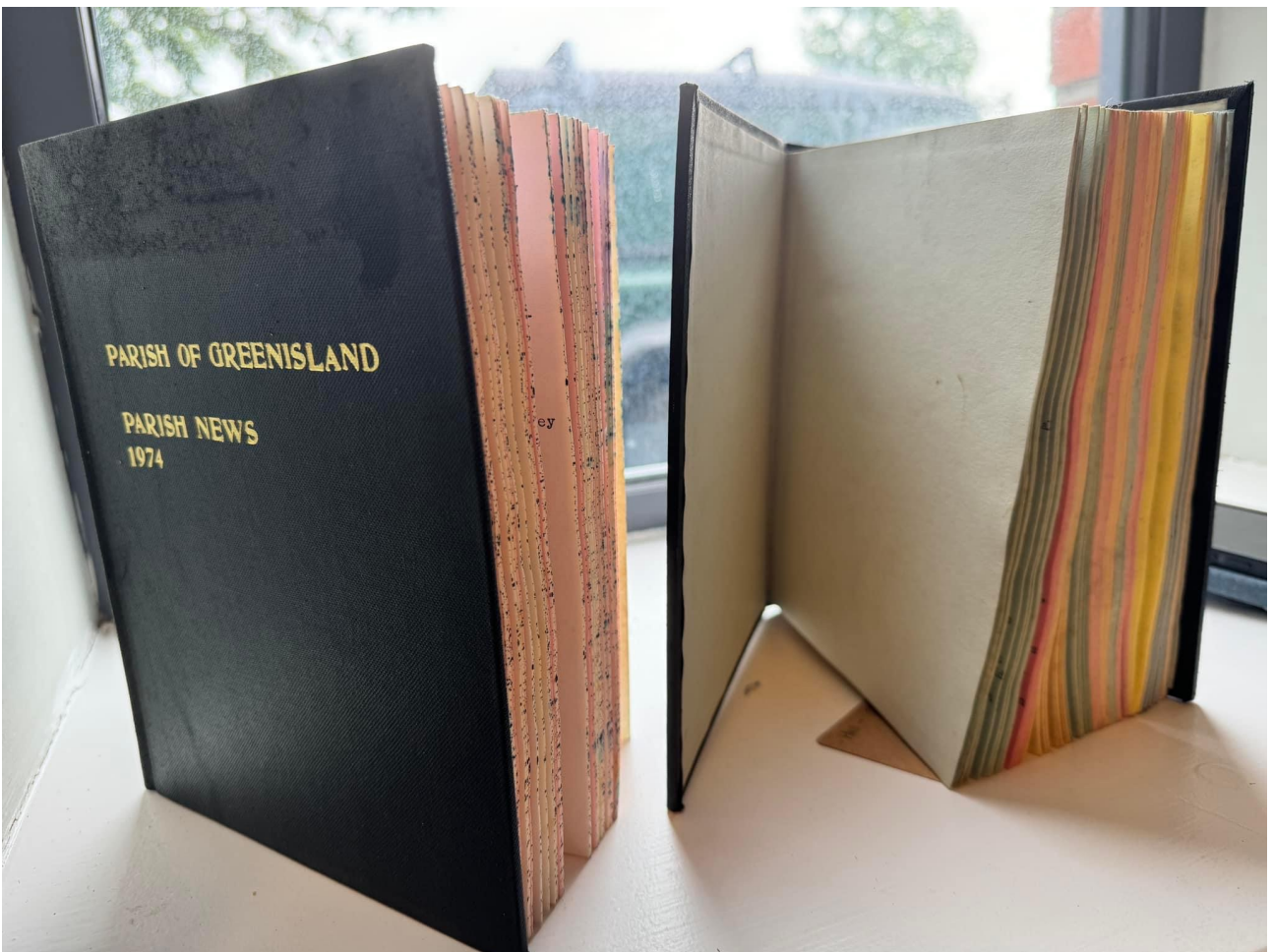
The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev John McDowell, who on Sunday afternoon was preaching in Greenisland Parish at the 70th anniversary service, returned to the Church of the Holy Name on Monday afternoon.

The Archbishop expressed his support to the Rev Isy Hawthorne-Steele (Centre of photo above), the priest-in-charge, and all those in the parish following Sunday night's devastating fire.

Also pictured is the Rev Stephen Lowry, a former rector who was amongst the first of a multitude of people who have sent messages of prayerful support for the future.

The Rev Isy Hawthorne-Steele, priest-in-charge of Greenisland Parish, said the fire that destroyed the parish hall and damaged the church just hours after 70th anniversary celebrations is 'just devastating.'

Isy was on the scene soon after the alert was raised. "I was there within minutes, I thought it was just going to be a fire in the bins, then there was a huge noise and it just caught fire so quickly. A gas bottle caused a massive explosion. I was just praying that it didn't hit the roof of the church, that's what the fire service were fighting all night. They have done a tremendous job."



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Thankfully some parish mementos and records were recovered - page above

Isy was allowed into the church at 5am on Monday and was able to bring out the lectern Bible and wands. After very little sleep, the early start and a day of media interviews and other meetings, she said she is just exhausted.

“It is a horrible feeling that the hall is totally gone, it is going to be a long process,” she said.

News



Two Armagh MU branches celebrate 140 years service



Clonfeacle Branch celebrated their 75th anniversary and Derrygortreavy Branch celebrated their 65th anniversary today in a joint service in St Patrick's Church Clonfeacle.

Rev Matthew Hagan MBE, Rural Dean conducted the service and Readings were by Olive Reid and Andrea McCullough. Miss Sarah Reynolds played the guitar and sang two pieces 🎵. Lady Eames, Guest Speaker, delivered a very inspirational Address, Prayers of Intercession by Edith Irwin, Jenny Irwin, Heather Burns and Molly Bachelor and prayers by Rev Alan Cross, Diocesan Chaplain 🙏. Following the Service, a delicious afternoon tea ☕ was served in the Parish hall. Lady Eames cut the celebration cake 🍰. Votes of thanks were expressed and flowers

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presented to Lady Eames, Heather Burns and Yvonne McFarland, Branch Leaders and a gift to Sarah for her beautiful solos.



Holiday Bible Week in Dromara and Garvagh

There was a team of 17 volunteers from the Parishes for the 2024 Holiday Bible Week - ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

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The rector said - Thank you to everyone - you all are amazing - Jane, Mavis, William, Vera, Heritage, Robin, Lisa, Rita, Linda, Margaret, Annie, Sadie, India, Elaine, Anna, George, Sharon.



Animal Friendly Church certificates

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell is patron of The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals.

To encourage churches which practice and promote a compassionate attitude towards God's creatures, The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals now awards 'Animal Friendly Church' certificates.

Find out more here

<https://www.aswa.org.uk/our-work/animal-friendly/>

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Mountmellick church to celebrate 57 weddings with unique event



Bridal gown display and mock wedding in aid of St Paul's Church

A unique celebration of a century of weddings in a Laois church takes place this September.

St Paul's Church of Ireland in Mountmellick has been the beautiful and meaningful venue for 57 weddings over the past 100 years, and a group of its parishoners are about to hold a special social fundraiser to honour that romantic history, Lynda Kiernan writes in Laois Live.

The whole town is getting involved, with a special showing of a wedding movie, and the reenactment of a wedding complete with lunch and fun speeches.

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At least 16 wedding dresses have been carefully packed and shipped to the organising committee for display, from as far away as Australia, with more welcomed.

The exhibition will include the register of marriages for all the weddings in St Paul's for the last 100 years, as well as photographs, invites and all the memorabilia carefully kept by couples since their special day.



Photo of a wedding at St Paul's Church

It will be a celebration of changing fashions, of love, of the church and of ecumenical community spirit.



Myrtle Gloster (nee Stewart) modelling her late mother Hilda's wedding dress

Philip and Janet Stewart from The Rock are part of the committee, with Philip's own mother Hilda Stewart's (nee Whitford) dress among the exhibits.

"So far my mum's dress is the oldest, they got married on August 6, 1952. She kept it in a box and dyed it green to wear it again," he said.

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"One dress came from Australia, including the wedding menu and the bridesmaid's dress, from a 1997 wedding.

"It has struck a chord with people. We are delighted with the response. Some couples have split up but even they were willing and said it was a happy time for them," Philip told the Leinster Express / Laois Live.

The first wedding of the past century was in 1819, between Margaret Thompson and John Haggard.

Mountmellick Drama group is going to act out a reenacted ecumenical wedding service, including a vintage car and a reception in The Hare's Corner, where the speeches promise to be comedic. The restaurant only seats 60 so the 'invitation' tickets will be like gold dust.

The committee also invite the public to vote for their favorite wedding hymn and why, and the six winning songs will be sung at the 'wedding'. Entries may be emailed by August 23 to chooseyourhymn@gmail.com

Weddings have become rarer in St Paul's as the size of the congregation falls. The most recent one was in 2017.

"Hopefully there will be more weddings there in the future," Philip Stewart said.

The exhibition will take place from September 5 to 8 in St Paul's Church, Mountmellick.

On Wednesday, September 4 there will be a wedding themed classic movie in The Balcony Cinema in

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Mountmellick Community Arts Centre at 7.30pm with tea/ coffee and wine reception.

The Brides of St Paul's exhibition will be launched on Thursday, September 5 at 7pm in the church with special guest Bishop Pat Storey, followed by a cheese and wine reception in the old school hall. The exhibition then opens to the public on Friday in the church, from 11am to 8pm, and again on Saturday, 11am to 4pm.

The wedding reenactment takes place on Saturday evening at 6pm in St Paul's Church. The bride will travel from O'Connell Square in a 1912 Vauxhall car, followed by a fun filled reception in The Hare's Corner restaurant at the MDA, Irishtown.

On Sunday the exhibition open for a final day from 10am to 4pm. There will be an exhibition of vintage cars and old wedding cars in O'Connell Square from 11am to 4pm.

It will close with a service of praise and thanksgiving, led by organist Antoinette Dickinson and her choir and the choir of Mountmellick Group of Parishes. A final reception will follow of tea, coffee and refreshments in the old school hall.

Any donations and ticket money raised will go towards maintenance of the 18th century church.

"We want it to unite all religions, all religious leaders will be invited. It will just be a lovely occasion to get together. Janet came up with the idea after we were at a school reunion and people met who hadn't seen each other since they left

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school. It is in aid of St Paul's so if it makes money, it makes money, but it's a social community thing," he said.

The committee are still in need of some traditional style mannequins to model the gowns, email rector@mountmellickgroupofparishes.ie or phone Janet Stewart on 086 2737146

Clergy and ministry

Deacons for Down & Dromore



The Bishop of Down & Dromore ordained five deacons in a packed out Willowfield Church.

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They are Ryan Hawk, Kyle Flanigan, Reuben Johnston, Colin Morris and Jonathan Watson to serve in Ballylesson Church, St Mary's, Ballybeen, St Donard's Community Church, Dundrum, Knockbreda Parish Church, and Belvoir Parish Church. Richard Moy of SOMA UK gave the address, challenging us to respond to God's call.

New Rector of the Virginia Group of Parishes



The Institution of Revd. Ian Berry: took place last Friday evening, 30th August.

The Virginia Group of Parishes comprises Billis, Killinkere, Lurgan (Virginia) and Munterconnaught. Parishioners, family and friends from across the Diocese and beyond crowded

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into Billis Parish Church for a service of celebration and welcome led by Bishop Ferran Glenfield.



Derry & Raphoe stalwart retires

There was a tremendous outpouring of affection – and not a few tears – in All Saints Newtowncunningham on Sunday as the parishioners of the Taughboyne Group

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gathered to bid farewell to Rev Canon David Crooks, as he retired after 40 years' faithful service as their Rector.

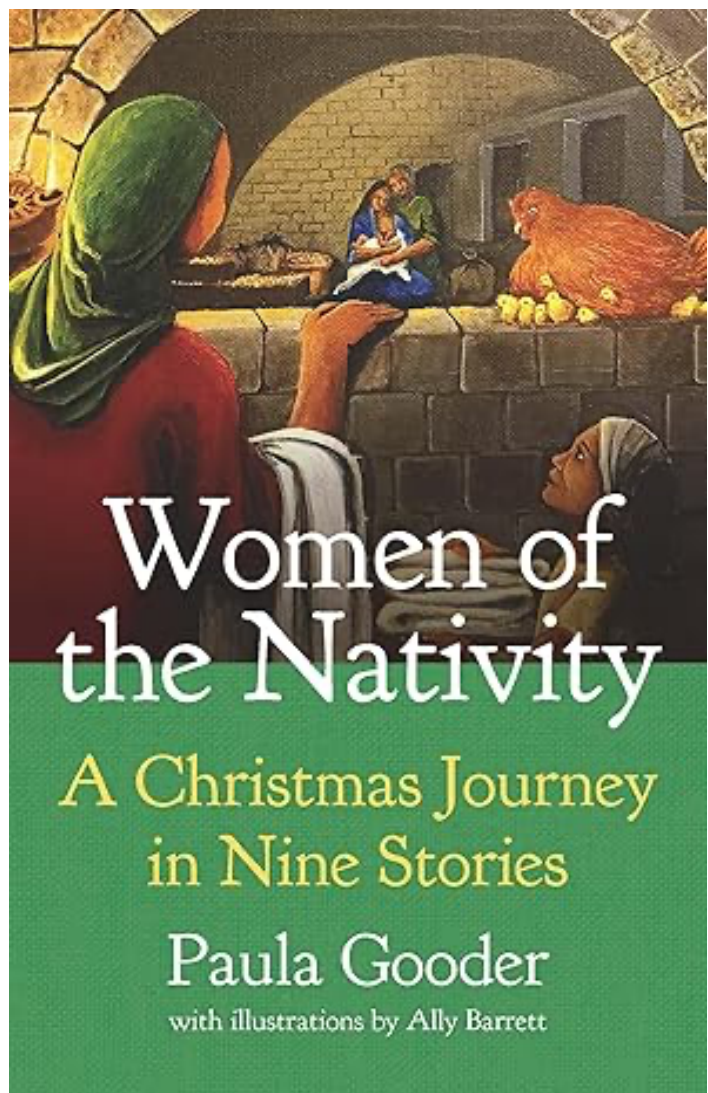
The church was packed to overflowing as the chapter closed on a remarkable ministry in east Donegal.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Women of the Nativity

An Advent and Christmas Journey in Nine Stories

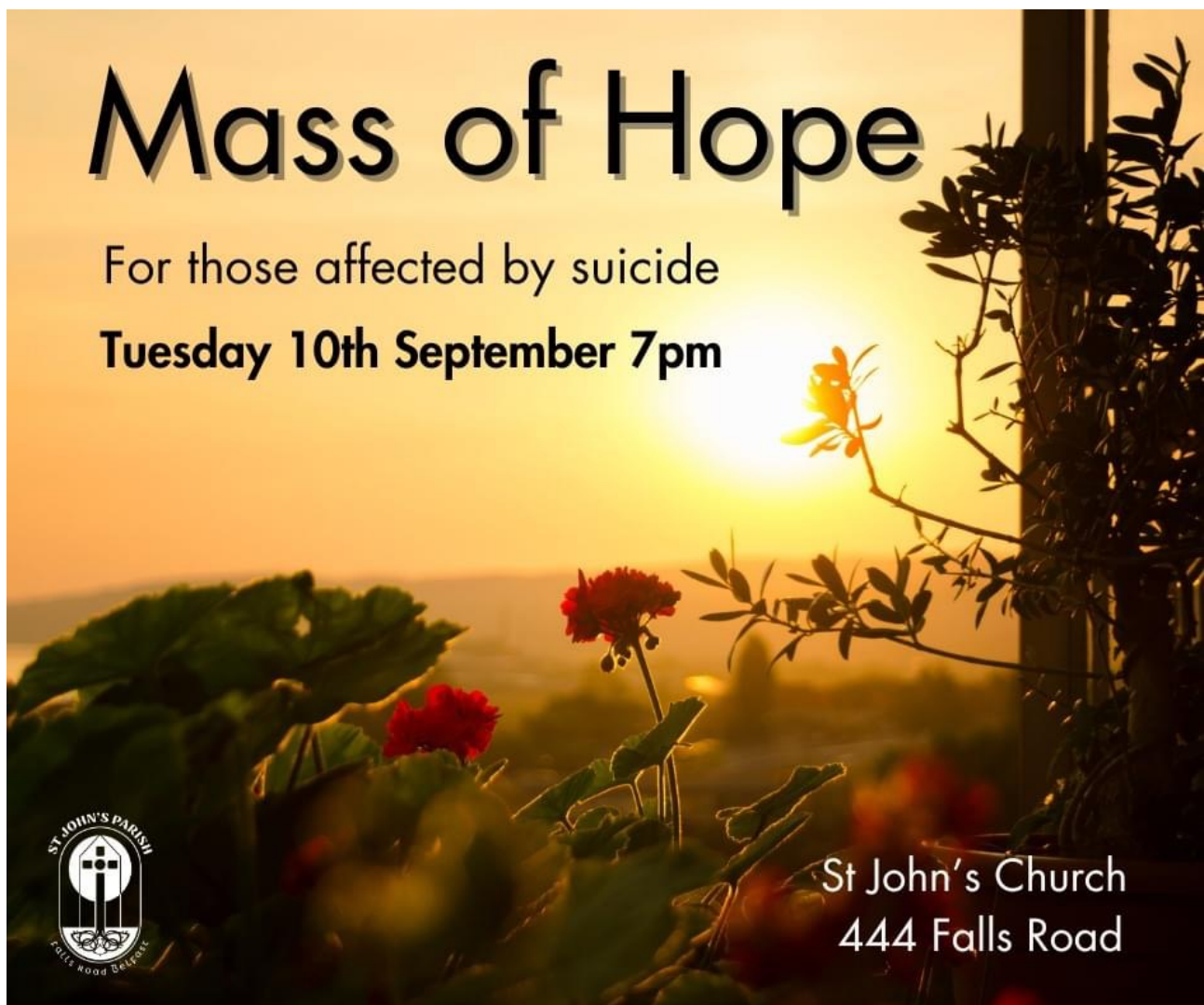
Following on from her bestselling *Women of Holy Week*, Paula Gooder uses her extensive biblical expertise and storytelling skills to recreate the events of the nativity, from the promise of a future people to Sarah, to the presentation in the temple and the encounter with Anna, the prophet.



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The story is told from the perspective of nine women in all including Mary, Elizabeth, Rachel, and others whom scripture records or tradition has imagined, such as the innkeeper's wife. As we hear the familiar stories afresh through their words, the wonder of the incarnation and its consequences for good and for ill, come to vivid life in a new way.

Each story is accompanied by a painting by the priest-artist, Ally Barrett. This will be widely welcomed by all who love Paula's writing and respect her biblical expertise as well as those looking for fresh inspiration for seasonal services from Advent to Candlemas.



Mass of Hope

For those affected by suicide
Tuesday 10th September 7pm



St John's Church
444 Falls Road

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Paperback. 96 pages. Author: Paula Gooder. Women of the Nativity £ 10.99. From St Paul's Shop -

<http://www.stpaulsshop.org.uk/p/12596/Women-of-the-Nativity>



C of E Ministry Experience Scheme

“It helps people to figure out what they want to do and what they are passionate about.”

Rev Robyn-Ann Russell-Jones, a curate in Hackney, London, shares her journey with the Ministry Experience Scheme.

Read at cofe.io/RevRussell-Jones.



Stanford 100

To mark the centenary of the death of Dublin born composer Charles Villiers Stanford, Saint Patrick's Cathedral presents a series of five organ recitals given by some of Ireland's leading organists.

Sundays at 7pm | Admission Free

www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/stanford100

Sunday 15 September | DAVID LEIGH

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.1

Sunday 22 September | STUART NICHOLSON

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.2 "Eroica"

Sunday 29 September | ANDREW JOHNSTONE

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.3 "Britannica"

Sunday 6 October | JUDIT MATÉ

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.4 "Celtica"

Sunday 13 October | DAVID LEIGH

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.5 "Quasi una fantasia"

For more information visit our website

www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/stanford100

Saint Patrick's Cathedral | Saint Patrick's Close | Dublin 8

Poem for today

Blackberry-Picking

By Seamus Heaney

Late August, given heavy rain and sun
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot
Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.
You ate that first one and its flesh was sweet
Like thickened wine: summer's blood was in it
Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for
Picking. Then red ones inked up and that hunger
Sent us out with milk cans, pea tins, jam-pots
Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached our boots.
Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills
We trekked and picked until the cans were full,
Until the tinkling bottom had been covered
With green ones, and on top big dark blobs burned
Like a plate of eyes. Our hands were peppered
With thorn pricks, our palms sticky as Bluebeard's.

We hoarded the fresh berries in the byre.
But when the bath was filled we found a fur,
A rat-grey fungus, glutting on our cache.
The juice was stinking too. Once off the bush
The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh would turn sour.
I always felt like crying. It wasn't fair
That all the lovely canfuls smelt of rot.
Each year I hoped they'd keep, knew they would not.
Source: Death of a Naturalist

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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

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