

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Lincoln Cathedral

People and places

Rostrevor Camino bringing community together



Tomorrow Saturday (April 2) people in the Co Down village of Rostrevor will walk out together along the St Bronach's Camino, writes William Graham in “Faith Matters” in the Irish News.

This is a key part of the bicentennial celebrations of Saint Bronach's Kilbroney Parish Church and the walk through the village will be led by the Church of Ireland Rector, the Rev Darren McCartney, and author and artist Susan Farrell.

The history and heritage of the broader Parish of Kilbroney (Church of Bronach) encompasses all Christian traditions in the Rostrevor community and surrounding areas.

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Walkers will visit a number of locations associated with St Bronach in Rostrevor, hear about her history and how her influence remains strong to this day.

A special brochure prepared for the event by Susan Farrell and the Rev Darren explains that St Bronach, a disciple of Saint Patrick, established a Christian community in the valley above Rostrevor known as the Vale of Seclusion.

According to the genealogies of the saints, she is the daughter of a King of Dalriada, mother of St Mo Choe of Nendrum and sister to a bishop.

Historical records from Bronach's time are sparse but began with the introduction of monasteries and abbeys when the original inhabitants of Christian communities, both men and women, began to record Irish Christian history, Irish mythology and copy the Gospels, producing beautiful illuminated manuscripts.

Bronach is listed in O'Clery's Calendar of Saints on her Saint Day, April 2. She was a convert of St Patrick. She inherited her brother's bishop's crozier when he died making her an abbess.

In times past, the residents of the village, on her Saint Day, would walk with candles from the Faerie Glen bridge on Bridge Street along rights of way adjacent to the Rostrevor (Kilbroney) River up to her church, situated in what is now Old Kilbroney Graveyard to say prayers at the holy well.

Those participating in the walk will be awarded a Camino certificate.



Camino participants will gather at Kilbroney Centre, Forestbrook Road, Rostrevor, BT34 3BT at 12.30pm on Saturday April 2.

The moderate-to-easy walk will take approximately three hours and follows a loop from Faerie Glen, Shore Road, finishing at Kilbroney Old Graveyard.

The route also includes Crag graveyard, Kilbroney Parish Church and St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, where the famous St Bronagh's Bell is on display.

Walkers are advised to bring a picnic; tea and coffee will be available in Kilbroney Parish Church.

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There will be Vespers later at Holy Cross Abbey, and at 10.15am on Sunday April 3 BBC Radio Ulster will broadcast from Saint Bronach's Kilbroney Parish Church.

A book detailing the history of the 200-year-old Kilbroney Parish Church, written by Shelagh Roberts and Pauline Coffey, has been published - with the limited edition volume selling out at its launch.

The book records the church building, its architecture, its vicars, and many events in church and village life. And it also documents the village Church School, Knotty Ash cemetery, the Vicarage and the Kilbroney Christian Conference Centre.

The church opened in Easter 1822 and sits in the square in Rostrevor - its arms spread around the village, and the village in a sense spreading its arms around the church.

A recent restoration of the church was generously supported and contributed to by Catholic and Protestant - and those who dissent from any particular denomination... - in the village and area.

Importantly, the book details examples of outreach from the church and towards the church, with examples of neighbourliness and good community relations.

Courtesy The Irish News March 31, 2022

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Full circle for Bishop Burrows at his last service in present diocese

In the current issue of his diocesan magazine Bishop Michael Burrows writes -

“I made a very definite decision some time ago to have no final ‘big event’ in the diocese: I am not after all retiring but rather moving, I hope seamlessly, to a new chapter in episcopal ministry. And, to be honest, such occasions after a long stay in a particular context can be emotionally overwhelming so I am allowing myself just one parting service which I expect will be suitably low key but will allow me in a personal, and some might say slightly sentimental and even quirky way, to feel the wheel has rather come full circle.

“I have always had a very special affection for Seirkieran at Clareen in Co Offaly. Because of its association with Ciaran, regarded as the founder of Ossory, it has been zealously retained through the centuries as part of the diocese of Ossory even though it is an island parish entirely surrounded by the diocese of Killaloe. Exactly a century ago my grandfather was rector there; my father spent his boyhood in Clareen as the parish travelled through the travails of the War of Independence and the Civil War...as a child I was brought on visits there and introduced to the beauty of the monastic site.

“So, beginning at 11 p.m. on Wednesday in Holy Week, Spy Wednesday, I shall spend my final hour as bishop of this

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diocese celebrating the Eucharist amongst friends in Seirkieran.

“It will be an occasion, in the midst of the holiest week of the year, for me to offer my profound thanks to God for all the blessings of having been bishop of Cashel Ferns and Ossory for sixteen years. And, as the midnight hour arrives, I shall enter the diocese of Killaloe to become its bishop (along with Tuam and Limerick), knowing that as that diocese embraces me with its hospitable arms I shall at the same moment bid farewell to what has been an extraordinarily enriching and truly blessed chapter in my life and ministry. And life will go on... and a new Bishop will arrive here ... and we will all enter a future that is already God’s ... and you will forever have a place in my prayers and on my heart.”

Buns and business day for St Patrick’s Cathedral Board and Chapter

Representatives of the Cathedral Board and Chapter, including the Archbishop, met together at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute for their annual away day on Monday 28 March.

All enjoyed the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones over lunch or coffee!

The day began with a welcome from the Cathedral's Dean and the whole event was wonderfully run by Ms Hilary Prentice, Chair of the Cathedral Board’s Governance Committee.



This year's meeting focused on the topics of sustainability and community. With presentations from Ms Lauren Keogh, an executive from Sustainable Travel Ireland, and Mr James Howley, Deanery architect, there was much to discuss and consider.

Ms Kelley Birmingham, the Cathedral Community and Outreach Officer, gave a most informative overview of her important work.

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Later in the afternoon, the Board and Chapter broke up into smaller groups to consider in detail the Cathedral's strategic plan and to highlight the actions they wished to see delivered over the coming year. Thanks were expressed to Lynda and Jane who, together with the catering staff from the Theological Institute, greatly contributed to the success of the day.

Clergy and children's ministry leaders avail of School Assembly training

Clergy and children's ministry leaders from across the diocese attended a School Assembly training event hosted by All Aboard – Connor Children's Ministry and Scripture Union on March 30.

They were welcomed by Victoria Jackson, Connor Children's Ministry Development Officer, who introduced the speakers, Rachel Sheppard, Children's Ministry Co-ordinator with Scripture Union; Andrew Neill, Scripture Union E3 Schools Worker on the north coast; and Jacqueline McCallum, Scripture Union E3 Schools Worker for East Antrim.

The Good Book Company was also in attendance. Clergy and children's ministry leaders had the opportunity to hear about resources and ideas which will help them as, in the wake of the pandemic, they are once again invited into school assemblies.

The event ran from 11.30pm-2pm at St Columba's, Whiterock, Belfast, and was followed by lunch.



Generous response to Ukraine continues at Belfast Cathedral

Wednesday of this week was chilly, but the ongoing generosity of the people of Northern Ireland towards those

in war-torn Ukraine was a great boost for Black Santa, Dean Stephen Forde.



Among the afternoon's visitors to his special sit-

out were the Rev Chris St John, rector of St. Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus, with a donation of £2,000 from the parish. Richard Yarr, presenter of 'Sounds Sacred' also stopped by to make a card donation; and Dean Forde was

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very grateful for funds raised by St. Patrick's Church, Jordanstown on Mothering Sunday.

Vacancy - Church's Ministry of Healing Operations Executive

CMH:I is seeking to appoint a part time Operations Executive, responsible for

the overall operational running of the charity, meeting charity and

company regulations and leading implementation of the Board's strategy and

initiatives.

A full job specification including details of remuneration rate and essential qualifications can be found at <https://ministryofhealing.ie/about/careers/>

Closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday 3rd May 2022.

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News reports

Wisconsin diocese's fundraiser helps Anglican diocese in Zimbabwe add dairy operation to mission farm

Wisconsin is known as the Dairy State, so it may come as no surprise that the Diocese of Fond du Lac rallied behind a plan to furnish cows for a farm in Zimbabwe operated by its companion diocese.

Fond du Lac's fundraiser this year generated more than \$24,000 from 60 donors representing 25 of the diocese's congregations, and that money was used by the Anglican Diocese of Masvingo to help launch its dairy project with six cows, which are expected to generate revenue for the diocese and support the community around the farm.

"The Anglican Diocese of Masvingo is very grateful to Bishop Matthew Gunter and the faithful in the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac for supporting us in this great way and enabling the diocese to start sustainable income generation initiatives," Matthias Thompson Maduba, the Diocese of Masvingo's development officer, said in a Fond du Lac news release.

Fond du Lac and the Anglican Diocese of Masvingo formed a companion diocese relationship in 2016. Since then, they have incorporated prayers for each diocese's congregations



Diocese of Masvingo Bishop Godfrey Tawonezvi visits the Daramombe Mission Farm on March 20 to commission a new dairy project, partly funded by donations from The Episcopal Church's Diocese of Fond du Lac. Photo: Diocese of Masvingo

into their Sunday liturgies while also sharing diocesan news with each other from across the globe. In 2019, Masvingo Bishop Godfrey Tawonezvi led a small delegation on a visit to the Diocese of Fond du Lac, one of three Episcopal dioceses in Wisconsin.

Fond du Lac raised more than \$60,000 from 2018 to 2021 to support Masvingo, first with its Transfiguration Youth Skills Center and more recently in the form of general financial relief as the Zimbabwean diocese dealt with pandemic-fueled budget shortfalls. Some Wisconsin congregations conducted additional fundraisers, such as St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Sister Bay, which raised money for a new well at Masvingo's Christ the King Daramombe school.

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The school is located at the center of the Anglican diocese's 1,200-acre Daramombe Mission Farm, which provides produce for the school.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Fond du Lac leaders to shelve plans for a visit to their companion diocese in Zimbabwe. Instead, with Tawonezvi scheduled to retire as Masvingo bishop at the end of March 2022, they asked if there was a project Fond du Lac could support in honor of Tawonezvi's 20 years of service to his diocese. The Zimbabwe diocese responded that it had long hoped to add a dairy operation to the Daramombe Mission Farm.

That prompted the Diocese of Fond du Lac to launch its Epiphany Campaign on Jan. 6 to raise money for the cows. The fundraiser was as a surprising success, said Matthew Payne, the diocese's canon for administration. "We just put the word out and had that fantastic response," Payne told Episcopal News Service.

The cows were purchased from a local Zimbabwean farmer, and on March 20, Tawonezvi commissioned the dairy project as part of a diocesan day of celebration at the farm and school. A sign at the site identifies the dairy project as funded by the Diocese of Masvingo "in partnership with Diocese of Fond du Lac (USA)."

"Many in the Diocese of Fond du Lac have come to cherish our relationship with our siblings in the Diocese of Masvingo," Gunter said in an email to ENS. "That was reflected in the broad and generous response to this appeal. We are not a very large diocese in numbers, but we are large of spirit."

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Congregations and dioceses interested in pursuing their own global companion relationships are encouraged to review the guidelines produced by The Episcopal Church's Global Partnerships Office. The office can be reached by email at globalpartnerships@episcopalchurch.org.

David Paulsen of Episcopal News Service.

Growing Young Leaders Commissioning Service

A group of young people were commissioned and recognised by The Right Reverend Roger Morris, the Bishop of Colchester for taking part in the Chelmsford Diocese Growing Young Leaders programme.

The commissioning service took place at Meadgate Church, Chelmsford, on the 13 March.

The Growing Young Leaders programme offers young people aged 13-18 the opportunity to engage with ministry and build leadership skills.

Those on the course will spend 6 months serving in leadership in their local church community whilst connecting with other young people on the programme to discover more about leadership and to explore their vocation. The programme continues to be valuable to both our young people and our church communities.

Charley Day, Diocesan youth adviser, said:



“The commissioning service, led by Bishop Roger, was a brilliant event. We were able to celebrate with some of the young people who have taken part in the Growing Young Leaders course – thank you to all involved! We will be taking applications for the next cohort starting in September, so do be in touch if your church has young people that you think would benefit from this experience!”

The next cohort of the Growing Young Leaders programme begins in September.

More information at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/diocesan-events-and-groups/young-leaders

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or contact Charley Day, cday@chelmsford.anglican.org, for more details.

Ringing bells for Ukraine



At the ringing of bells for Ukraine at St Paul's after choral Evensong, Sunday 20th March, 2022. The Dean, Dr David Ison; Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski; The Precentor, Canon James Milne; and this trustee of the Ukrainian Eparchy of the Holy Family of London

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Blaze: Learning together to be a global disciple

Introducing Blaze ...

Blaze the bee is a new way of helping children and families in congregations right across PCI explore how God is at work in the world and what it means for them to be a global disciple, doing what they can to play their part in God's global mission.

This includes learning about, and praying for, global mission workers, God's church around the world and a Christian approach to big issues like creation care.

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The Blaze character is being provided to your congregation for use in children's addresses and other activities such as Sunday school or uniformed organisations. You will know best where Blaze fits and will have most impact in the particular shape of your congregation's children's ministry. Creating a buzz ...

So, you'll be hearing and seeing a lot more about Blaze in future.

Watch this space as we will regularly be making materials and resources available be used in conjunction with the Blaze character will be made available at several times throughout the year, offering simple and readily usable outlines to give a child-friendly window on a variety of aspects of global mission.

To download our resources to introduce Blaze as a global disciple in your children's ministry check the downloads section in the right hand menu.

Three simple ways ideas to get to know Blaze ...

Here are three simple ideas for helping everyone in your congregation become familiar with Blaze as a character readily associated with global mission:

In a church service, Sunday school or children's organisation, use Blaze to help you look at a map of the world together. Choose a country to learn about, perhaps one in which you already have a link with an overseas mission worker or project. Follow up by learning more about

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what God is doing in that country and praying for God's church there.

Buy a travel journal for Blaze. Have a child or family take Blaze home for a week, choose a country to learn about what God is doing in mission or the church, and add what they have found out to the travel journal. Children or families could briefly report back to the whole church or group and you could pray specifically for that country.

Take a photograph of Blaze in a setting local to your church which pictures an aspect of creation care e.g. a recycling centre, a wind farm, a bird or animal sanctuary. Use the photo of Blaze on location to help children grasp that caring for God's creation is part of what it means to be a global disciple.

Blazing a trail ...

Blaze is an important part of how the Presbyterian Church in Ireland wants to encourage a lively and growing interest in being involved in global mission from the youngest to the oldest member. You can help capture the breadth of that emphasis visually, by taking a photograph of Blaze with children or families in your congregation and sending it to [mailto: rbromley@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:rbromley@presbyterianireland.org)

Your photo will become part of a growing gallery of publicity used to further promote Blaze and what God is doing to stimulate our appreciation of the greatness of his work in the world.

[[] <https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/Congregational-Life/Blaze-Learning-together-to-be-a-global-disciple.aspx>]

Perspective

We must not burden young people with 'ancestor worship' by Archbishop John McDowell

You can be fairly certain that something significant is going on in the world when the German language comes up with a new word to describe what is happening.

Although the immediate occasion for coining the word *Zeitenwende* (historical turning point) was the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it nevertheless sums up the hinge moment that many places around the world are stepping into.

In another context I described the build-up to that moment here in Ireland as “a time between times”; a moment of reflection or even of turmoil which gives birth to a new age. It will have continuities with the old age, but it will also have the strangeness of the future.

Perhaps most importantly, there is nothing inevitable about what the new age will look like. As with all periods in history it will be influenced by certain almost immutable factors, but it will take its decisive shape from the conscious choices which you and I make now.

We should understand these choices as ultimately deciding our legacy to those who come after us. What sort of predecessors do we wish to be?

Any parent will be familiar with those hinge moments when they cease to be looked upon by their children as the source of all wisdom and virtue and instead begin to be regarded as almost unbelievably dim and wilfully blind to the glaringly obvious. Wise parents will probably see a large degree of truth in what their children are saying.

Our lives are closely bound together, but the way in which different generations see the world and experience it are, in many ways, profoundly different. The things that really matter to young people may be based around the same principles (of truth, love, justice etc.) but they are necessarily not the issues that mattered to their parents. This is as it should be. Our burdens or concerns should not inevitably be theirs too. Our stuff should not be their stuff.

Although it is not quite as fully developed as it is in China, we in Ireland have a strong undercurrent of ancestor worship flowing through our social, religious and political lives.

It can be as trivial as “I'm glad your granny isn't alive to see you going out dressed like that”, or as momentous as “The men of 1690/1916/1969/1998 etc. would turn in their graves to hear you say that”.

We pass on some memories, ideas and attitudes because they have been important to us. But just as our children and

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grandchildren need to be left in freedom to make their own families, so we need to afford them a certain liberality to understand the past and to shape the future on a broader canvas.

And my generation has a positive part to play in creating this sense of liberality.

Young people do not need “permission” to think differently (they have that permission inherently) but I think they would benefit from some encouragement, particularly the encouragement that comes from being listened to across generations and being taken seriously. And to take them seriously requires admitting our own failures and adjusting our behaviour accordingly — it is never too late to do that.

Whether consciously or unconsciously, people of my generation in Ireland were born, not only into a family, but into a tribe. Families can absorb difference. Indeed it is the difference between members of a family, rather than what they have in common, that gives family life colour and vigour.

Tribes love the badges of uniformity. Families forgive; tribes only remember. Can my generation work with a younger generation to open the door to the future? Or will we remain in the advanced state of self-absorption which has prevented us from lifting our eyes from the textbooks of our traditions to see a further horizon?

One of the cornerstones of Christian discipleship is the practice of self-limitation for the good of others. It derives from the fact that Jesus Christ did not consider his equality with God as something to be taken advantage of, instead he took the form of a servant.

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Even in the act of creation, God who is entire in the Trinity of His being, makes a space for something other to exist and thrive. Or to put it more straightforwardly, not insisting on our own privileges is in the nature of God. Perhaps by not foisting our priorities, taboos and shibboleths onto another generation we will leave a space for something truly new to happen.

So, what sort of ancestors will we be? Which bits of our stuff will we choose to hand on to our children and grandchildren as we help them in their colossal vocation of creating life-enhancing political, social and religious life in Ireland? Perhaps, as always, the challenge is best summed up in the simple pictorial language used by Jesus when he asked: “Which of you when your child asks for bread will give him a stone?” (Matthew 7:9).

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