

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Partnership Rock pilgrims
on Rathlin Island**

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People and places

PARTNERSHIP ROCK! North Connor parishes' sun drenched programme

Ballyrashane and Killdolagh Parishes organised a programme offering activities to a very wide range of parishioners.

There was everything from paddle boarding to a retreat on Rathlin Island to a service in Belfast Cathedral and an activity day in Dixon Park, Drumbeg, with members of the diocese of Yet in South Sudan. Here is feedback from participants.

PARTNERSHIP ROCK! - ROSE PARK FARM

Our Partnership Rock! week started yesterday with a great day at Rosepark Farm. Our families gathered as we explored different animals and had a whole lot of fun together! (The children all wanted to stay for longer)

Thank you to everyone who came and took part in our first event of the week.

Thank you to Church of Ireland Priorities Fund for making this possible for our parishes!

PARTNERSHIP ROCK! - PADDLEBOARDING

Wow! That was fun! Yesterday was an amazing day paddleboarding on the River Roe! We heading out in the

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scorching heat with our wetsuits and paddleboards onto the water. We spent time trying to figure out how to move and then all got standing up as well!

Thanks to Rev. Amanda Adams for sharing a thought from Scripture to start our event - remembering when Jesus walked on water.

Thank you to Long Line Surf School for taking our group out yesterday and to Church of Ireland Priorities Fund for subsidising this event.

PARTNERSHIP ROCK! - WORSHIP NIGHT (with Mothers' Union Tea)

Last night we were at Ballyrashane Parish Church for our Worship Night and Mothers' Union Tea.

The evening began with a lovely tea prepared by the Mothers' Union and then the MU and the church gifted



Bishop Kamani and Mama Agnes some gifts from the local area and for use in Ibba, South Sudan.



After the presentation, we joined our voices in praise to our amazing God in the church. God even gifted us an amazing sunset once we left the church.

Thank you to each member of the Mothers' Union and Worship Band for an amazing night! We lifted the roof with sound of praise with old and new songs of worship!

PARTNERSHIP ROCK! - ROCK PAINTING

On the hottest August Day which Ireland has ever recorded, our parishes headed to Portballintrae for rock painting! Those of all ages picked up the paint, pens and started to design their rocks. What beautiful designs we have too! You can see them in church on Sunday!

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Massive thank you to Dawn McHenry for all her organising, preparation and time spent for this event and to Church of Ireland Priorities Fund for the funding of equipment.

PARTNERSHIP ROCK! - RATHLIN RETREAT

Our parishes headed to Rathlin Island for our Parish Retreat. The retreat began at St Thomas' Church where we discovered the spirituality of the island. We then headed up the hill to the Church of the





Immaculate Conception where we discussed the partnership the Catholics and Protestants have on the island. Bishop Kamani also shared what it is like being a Christian in South Sudan.

We then headed back to Church Bay for our picnic and then headed round to

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Mill Bay.

On our journey we looked at the history of the Island - Robert the Bruce and Kept Store to name a few!

When we arrived at Mill Bay for our 'Quiet Time', we opened God's Word and spent time exploring what God was saying

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Event in Belfast Cathedral

to us. We read from 1 Peter 2 and discovered what it meant to be living stones. This closed our parish retreat with a prayer cairns where we joined together in prayer in a traditional Celtic way.

Thank you to Church of Ireland Priorities Fund for subsidising this event and to Rev. Patrick Barton for what he planned for us during our time on the island - we had a great day!

Yesterday we enjoyed the Rathlin Retreat with our Partnership Rock friends from Ballyrashane and Killdolagh and Bishop Kamani and his wife Mamma Agnes from Ibba, South Sudan.

Eco–Congregation Ireland newsletter

Eco–Congregation Ireland’s Summer 2022 newsletter is now available, highlighting examples of environmental projects undertaken by churches across the island of Ireland.

This includes a report from Carrigaline Union of Parishes on replacing the Oasis flower arranging product with eco–friendly alternatives such as Bio–foam, a clean–up in Galway parish’s churchyard (followed by breakfast!) and the Act for Nature Day, organised A Rocha Northern Ireland, at Hugh’s Meadow Nature Reserve, in County Antrim.

Eco–Congregation Ireland is an initiative of the Irish Inter Church Meeting, and includes members from the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and Religious Society of Friends.

Upcoming Choral events

17.8.22 – Irish Youth Choir Cork Concert - Summer 2022, Curtis Auditorium MTU Cork School of Music

19.8.22 – Irish Youth Choir Limerick Concert - Summer 2022, St Mary’s Cathedral Limerick

20.8.22 – Irish Youth Choir Dublin Concert - Summer 2022, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

21.8.22 – The Birds and the Bees Quartet | Chamber Choir Ireland, Chamber Music on Valentia



Renovation of the Parish and Community Centre, in Meath & Kildare diocese

Bishop Pat Storey
of Meath &
Kildare diocese

cuts the ribbon to perform the Opening Ceremony for the newly renovated and updated Parish and Community Centre, in Edenderry.

Parishioners, members of the organising committee, Rev Sarah Marry (Rector), and Rev Alan Melbourne joined the Bishop for the opening ceremony, which took place on the afternoon of Saturday 13 August.

Bishop Storey said the successful renovations showed a great commitment by all involved and represented a belief in the future.

The parish is grateful for funding from Offaly Local Development Company, through the Rural Development / Leader Programme.

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Father John on the road again

Belfast cleric Father John Gribben who is head of studies at the Anglican Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield, is back training for a sponsored run which is planned to take place later in the year.



John is hoping to raise money for Tariro UK. Tariro UK is a charity that funds projects for young people in need in Zimbabwe; helping them to learn, to develop and to grow.

John who served as a curate-assistant in Dunmurry and who was a class-mate of Archbishop Richard Clarke has written -

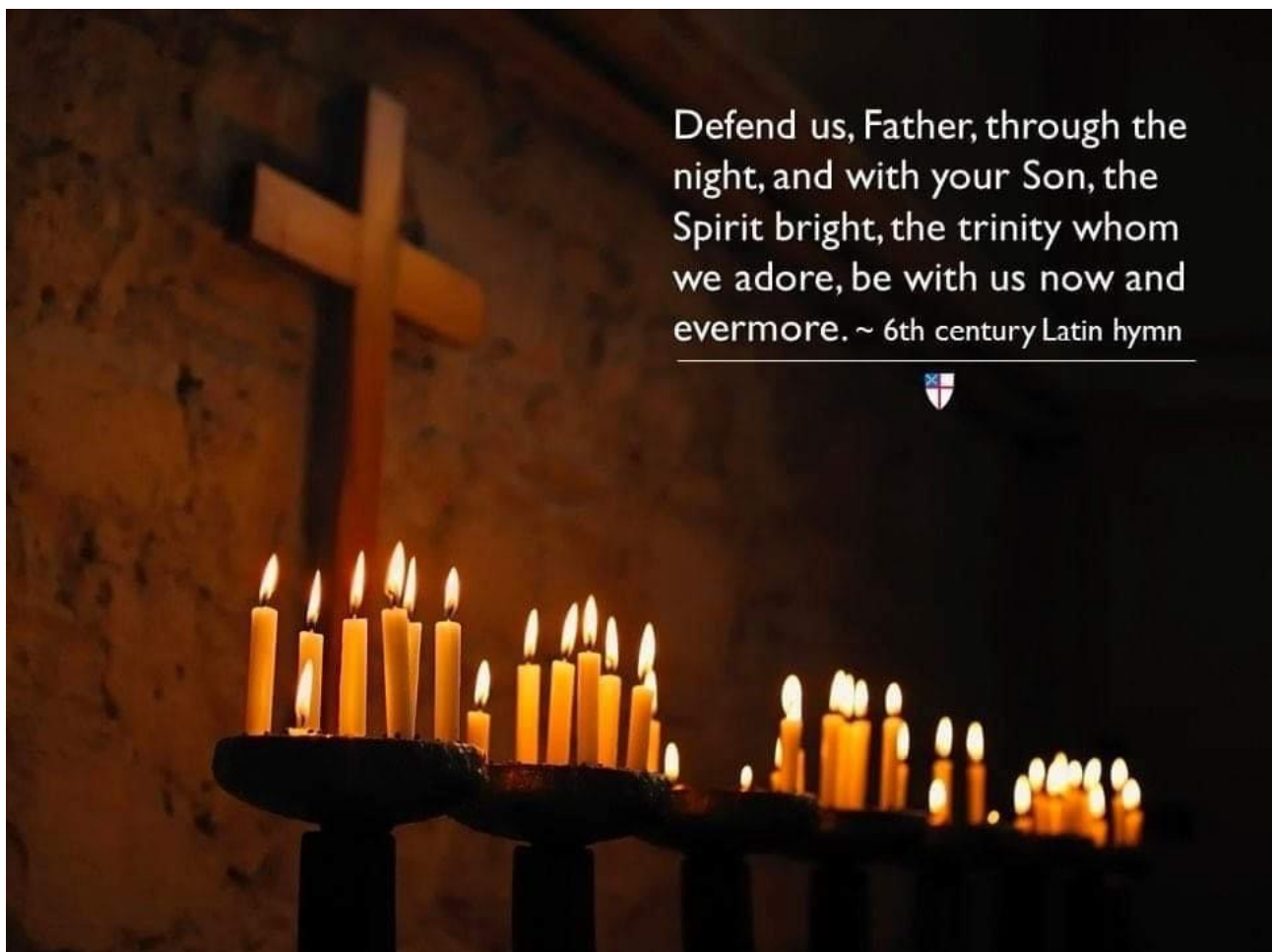
“Here is my old friend Beryl the Peril getting into training to accompany me as I begin my warm-up charity run on 12th November (10k? I must be mad) - see Fr John Charity run on the Community of the Resurrection's Facebook page. My aim is to raise money for Tariro UK -a charity which works to bring education, work and support to teenagers and you

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adults in Zimbabwe. What do I want of you? Support and encouragement, sponsorship and publicity. Tell your friends, perhaps run yourself donate if you can, pray or think good thoughts for me. Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe - Donate now. (cafonline.org)” See also - [<https://mirfield.org.uk/>]

Much to discover in South Belfast walking tour

A Cultural Walking Tour of Stranmillis and Queen's delivered by John Bradbury, Tour Guide and Lifelong Learning tutor.



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Beginning at the College the tour will include buildings and sites of importance in the local area. Botanic Gardens, Ulster Museum, Friar's Bush, the Lanyon Building and Crescent Arts Centre will all be visited. For more information and to book please click the following link <https://eshop.stran.ac.uk/cultural-walking-tour-of-stranmillis-and-queens-3054-p.as>

New statue of Her Majesty the Queen at York Minster

The Archbishop of York to unveil and bless York Minster's new statue of Her Majesty the Queen on Friday 23rd September

A statue of Her Majesty the Queen, designed and carved by York Minster stone mason Richard Bossons, will be officially blessed and then unveiled by the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, at the West Front of the cathedral on Friday 23rd September.

Earlier in the afternoon, Archbishop Stephen will view 'Sculpting the Monarch' a new exhibition in the Minster's North Transept, which tells the story of the making of the statue. A spectacular full-sized model of the statue will dominate the exhibition.

The statue was commissioned by the Chapter of York, the governing body for York Minster, to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – the first British monarch to reign for 70 years. The statue honours her life of service and dedication to the nation and the Commonwealth.

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The statue was installed in its niche on the West Front of the Minster on 2nd August. For the unveiling ceremony, the statue will be covered by a large cloth. Archbishop Stephen will bless the statue and then pull a cord to reveal the spectacular work to the world.

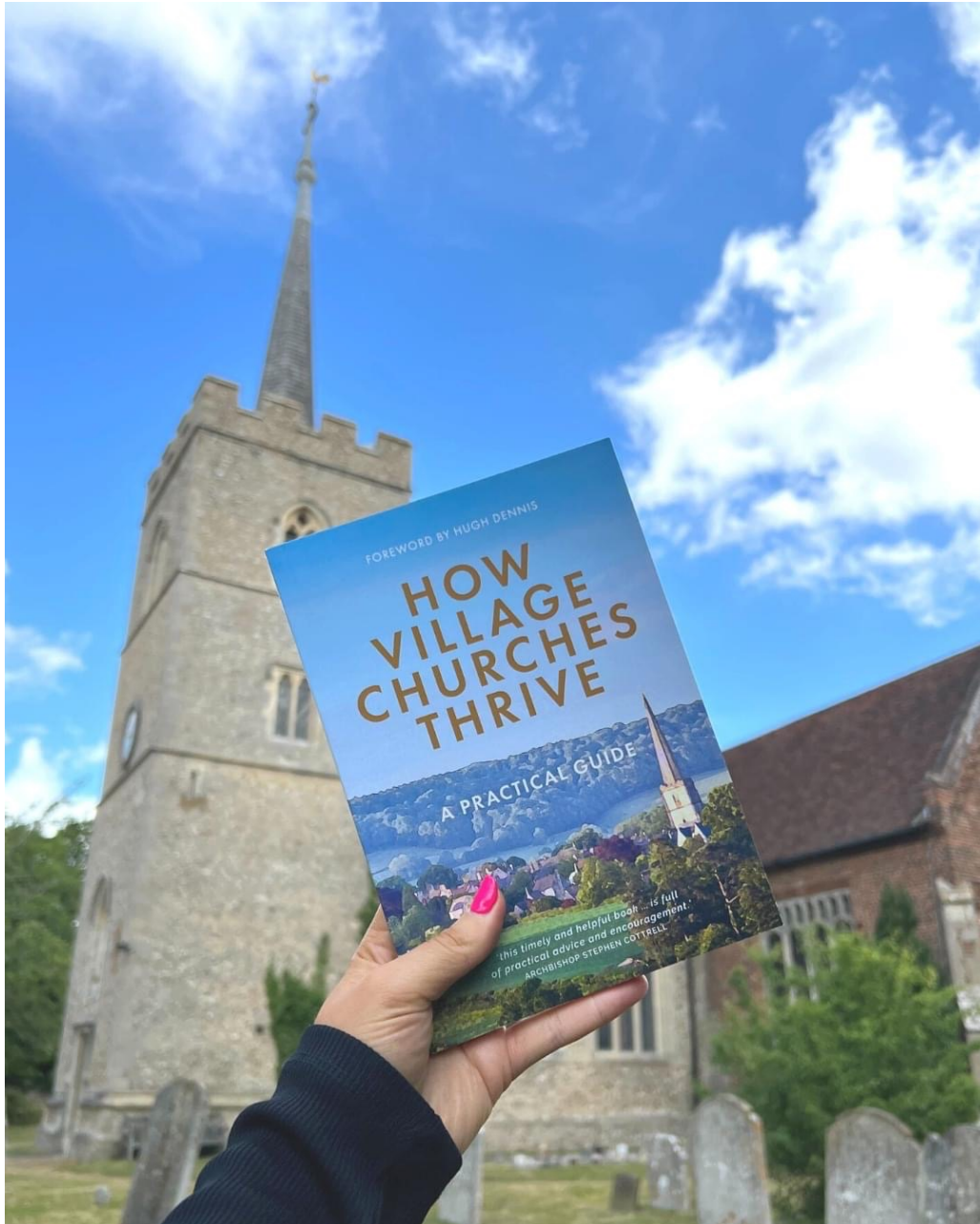
Archbishop Stephen said: “I’m looking forward to unveiling the statue of HM The Queen and thrilled that York Minster has commissioned this statue as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Queen has been a wonderful beacon of hope, integrity, stability, and unity for our country and beyond. Few of us remember a monarch before her. This stability is a reassuring and encouraging presence in the midst of so much change.”

The sculpture was designed and carved by Richard Bossons of the York Minster Stoneyard, with advice and support from York Minster’s Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC), the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE) and The Royal Collections Trust. Buckingham Palace was informed of the project.

The vision to create a statue has been a core element of the York Minster Precinct Neighbourhood Plan since its inception in 2018. It is the first phase of a wider scheme of urban regeneration at the West Front of the Minster to create a new public square and civic space. Queen Elizabeth Square will be the first new public square in York in 200 years.

The blessing and unveiling of the statue will be followed by a special service of Evensong at 17:30. All are welcome.
<https://yorkminster.org/>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



How village churches thrive

Packed with practical advice and inspiring case studies, 'How Village Churches Thrive' will encourage all who work or worship in a rural church.

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Learn more and order your copy at cofe.io/VillageChurches.

The Parish as Oasis: An Introduction to Practical Environmental Care

By Kevin Hargaden and Ciara Murphy. Messenger Publications

A practical and accessible introduction to how local churches can contribute to healing the environmental crisis. By focussing on practical 'experiments' that any parish can explore according to their own context and capacities, this book seeks to equip people with a hands-on understanding of the ideas unpacked in Laudato Si'. It is a book that aspires to inspire congregations to get their hands dirty, but also plants those initiatives within a coherent eco-theology.

Dr Kevin Hargaden is the Director and Social Theologian of the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Ireland.

Dr Ciara Murphy is the Environmental Justice Advocate of the Jesuit centre for Faith and Justice, Ireland.

Publication Date: 25 September 2022. €14.95 £12.95
9781788125765 Paperback 144pp

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Perspective

St Maximilian Kolbe

Franciscan priest and martyr. Maximilian Kolbe is a patron saint of journalists, drug addicts, political prisoners, families, prisoners, and the pro-life movement.

He was born near Lodz in Poland, in 1894, while the country was under Russian rule. His parents were Franciscan tertiaries. He joined the junior seminary in 1907 and entered the Franciscans in 1910. Both his parents also became religious. His father was executed by the Russians in 1914, aged 43.

Maximilian studied in Rome. In 1919 he returned to Poland, where, in spite of suffering from tuberculosis, he taught in a seminary and set up a Catholic newspaper. He also established a Franciscan community at Niepokalanow which combined a life of prayer, cheerfulness and poverty, with modern technology. They produced a number of weekly and daily publications which had circulations of over 45,000.

During the 1930s he started another community in Nagasaki, Japan, which also produced publications. The monastery he founded survived the atomic bomb on Nagasaki because of its location, and is still thriving today. Kolbe was recalled to Poland in 1936, because of his health problems. By that year there were 762 friars in his community.

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When the Nazis invaded, Niepokalanow became a refugee camp, housing more than 4,500 Jewish and Polish people. The newspapers continued, taking an independent line, critical of Hitler's regime.

Maximilian was arrested as a 'journalist, publisher and intellectual'. Together with four companions, he was taken to Auschwitz in May 1941. As Prisoner #166700, Maximilian did forced labour, moving logs speeded by kicks and lashes. He continued his ministry, hearing confessions and smuggling in bread and wine for the Eucharist. He was noted for his compassion to those in an even worse state than himself.

One day, he swapped places with a man called Francis Gajnowiczek who was going to be executed. He said: "I am a Catholic priest. I wish to die for that man. I am old. He has a wife and children."

Maximilian was sent to cell 18 with a group to be starved to death. He prayed with them and recited psalms. After two weeks only four were still alive and he was the only one conscious. He was executed with an injection of phenol and died on this day, aged 47.

He was beatified on 1971 and canonised in 1982 by Pope John Paul II, former Archbishop of Krakow, which is near Auschwitz. Francis Gajnowiczek attended the ceremony. Pope John Paul II declared him 'The Patron Saint of Our Difficult Century'.

St Maximilian was very devoted to Our Lady and has been called the Apostle of Consecration to Mary.

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He is one of ten 20th-century martyrs from across the world depicted in statues above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey in London. Celebrated on August 14th

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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