

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Synodal milestone at Knock

August 18, 2022

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Tuesday marked a significant milestone in the synodal process currently underway in the Catholic Church in Ireland with the publication of the national synthesis of the local listening that took place in dioceses and other contexts between October 2021 and May 2022. See report on Page ...and 'In the media' on page Former Irish president Mary McAleese hails new report. On page

People and places



Celebrating Shandon 300

A series of exhibition boards created by the Shandon Area History Group was unveiled on 12th August at a

August 18, 2022

special preview event in St Anne's Church, Shandon, Cork.

Photo on previous page - The Rev. Farr, Deputy Lord Mayor Derry Canty, Helen McGonagle (Executive Librarian), David O'Brien (Cork City Librarian), Michael Lenihan at the launch of the new "Three Hundred Years of St. Anne's Church" visitors booklet.

The event was well attended and Cllr. Derry Canty, who deputised for Lord Mayor Deirdre Forde, gave a short speech on behalf of the City Council.

Rev. Meghan Farr welcomed everyone and said, "I'm delighted to be a part of sharing these incredible boards with the wider Cork community as we celebrate the 300th anniversary. Thank you to the Shandon History Group and all who put in so much time and effort."

Anne Twomey from the History Group gave an introduction to the project and David O'Brien, City Librarian, spoke behalf of the City Library, which supported the project from its inception. The boards present stories of St. Ann behalf of the City Library, which supported the project from its inception. The boards present stories of St. Anne's Church, its famous bells, and the people of the Shandon area. They also include details about St Mary's Church, Skiddy's Almshouse, The Green Coat School, Fr. Prout, and others. The special commemorative visitor's guide, Three Hundred Years of St. Anne's Church, Shandon, was launched as part of the exhibition and introduced by author Michael Lenihan.

August 18, 2022

The guide is now available for purchase and the boards are on display for Cork Heritage Week and will remain throughout the month of September.



Kilbroney youth adventures 2022

From the end of July through to 14 August the team from DDYC - Down & Dromore Youth Council - were hard at work running the J.A.M. Big Days Out, Junior, Middle and Senior Kilbroney Adventure Camps.

“The Diocesan Summer Camps are a fantastic opportunity for children and young people to grow in their faith”, said a spokesperson.

There is a photo gallery of the events at -

<https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2022/08/kilbroney-adventures-2022>

August 18, 2022

Bishop from Congo visits Clogher Diocese



Bishop Masimango Katanda and his wife Naomi with Bishop Ian Ellis and Revd Andrew Quill and Joanne.

An Anglican bishop from the Democratic Republic of Congo arrived in Clogher Diocese as part of the Kingdom Voices Week organised by SAMS Ireland and CMS Ireland.

The two Christian charities were hosting 36 global church leaders from Africa, South America and Nepal for a one-week programme, following the Lambeth Conference.

Bishop Masimango Katanda is from Kindu diocese in DRC and has previously served as Primate and Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Congo.

He and his wife, Naomi, were hosted in Clogher Diocese by Revd Andrew Quill, Rector of Dromore Parish and his wife, Joanne.

Among their itinerary Naomi attended a meeting of Mothers' Union members on Thursday evening in Dromore, Bishop Masimango spoke at a special Praise and Ministry Service in Dromore Church on Saturday evening and they will both were present for morning service on Sunday.

CMSI and SAMS organised a conference, "Learning from the Global Church" in Belfast, a Multicultural Evening Celebration Service in St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast and a family fun day in Lady Dixon Park.

In 1996, Masimango Katanda was elected as the first bishop of the new Diocese of Kindu, which covers the entire area of the Province of Maniema and the territory of Shabunda in the neighbouring Province of south-Kivu.

Working with Church Mission Society Ireland, the Diocese has built a primary school, established a diocesan-wide HIV/ Aids programme, set up a new clinic and established a very successful micro-credit programme for women.

August 18, 2022

Adopt a shelf at the Robinson Library, Armagh



Be Part of our Story and our Future: Adopt a Shelf!

For more info and to donate, visit <https://armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk/adopt> Made possible with the support from the [@HeritageFundUK](https://twitter.com/HeritageFundUK)

CNI

Significant milestone in Irish Catholic synodal process

Tuesday marked a significant milestone in the synodal process currently underway in the Catholic Church in Ireland with the publication of the national synthesis of the local listening that took place in dioceses and other contexts between October 2021 and May 2022.

This national synthesis – which will have now been submitted to the Synod Secretariat in the Vatican as part of the global synodal process announced by Pope Francis for the Church, to run from 2021 to 2023, with the theme ‘For a Synodal Church – Communion, Participation, Mission’. The national synthesis will be published on www.synod.ie

The completion of this important phase in both the national and universal synod process was marked with a Mass as part of the annual Novena in Knock Shrine, which this year has the theme ‘A Journey of Hope’. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Michael Router, Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh and a member of the Synod Steering Committee and Committee Chair Dr Nicola Brady gave an address reflecting on the synodal experience in Ireland to date.

Reflecting on the process to date Bishop Router said, “As we publish the synthesis of the consultation in Ireland for the Universal Synod I wish to express my thanks to the thousands of people nationwide who took the time to respond and to make their voice heard. In reading the varied responses gathered in the Archdiocese of Armagh,



The Synodal Pathway of the Catholic Church in Ireland

and the completed national synthesis, I was struck by the pervasive desire to feel a deeper sense of belonging to the Church and the call for it to be more inclusive. I pray that this relaunching of the synodal way will help people to realise that we are all part of a community of sinners walking together on the road, supporting and helping each other as we strive to live as Jesus Christ wants us too. May everyone appreciate that they are loved by God and, regardless of their circumstances, find a welcome in his Church.”

Inviting people to read the national synthesis Nicola Brady said, “We invite everyone to read the national synthesis and reflect on what we are called to do, as individuals and as a church community, as a result of what we have heard. The issues raised are not new, but the honesty and clarity with which they have been articulated in this process, and the

August 18, 2022

relational approach that has characterised the work to date, offers a strong foundation to build upon. Some of the findings are stark, many of the experiences shared are painful, but there have also been many hopeful and encouraging aspects, notably the importance many people have placed on this process and the skills and experience we will take forward into the subsequent phases of this work. Important questions have been set out for deeper reflection and pastoral action at every level of Church life and there will be many more opportunities for people to get involved and help shape this process.”

In the media

Former Irish president Mary McAleese hails new report from Catholic Church in Ireland

Mary McAleese hails new report from Catholic Church in Ireland demanding equal status for women, LGBT people and removal of celibacy rule, Christopher Leebody reports in the Belfast Telegraph

The former Irish president Mary McAleese has hailed a document sent to the Vatican demanding greater rights for women, LGBT people and those who are divorced within the Catholic Church.

The report from the National Synthesis is to be sent to Rome following a consultation with all 26 Catholic dioceses

August 18, 2022

on the island of Ireland that has taken place since last October.

In the covering letter sent with the document, Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary general of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican, was told Catholic dioceses also want major changes in the church's attitude to single parents and the removal of the mandatory celibacy rule for priests.

Ms McAleese, who was born in Belfast, described the document as “explosive, life altering, dogma altering, church altering”, according to the Irish Times.

She said the calls come “not from the hierarchy, not from Rome, but from the people of God”.

“Clearly there was a very, very strong movement for reform and change and this is reflected fairly and truthfully [in the synthesis document]”, she added.

“There's no denying those voices now. I hope when it is received in Rome it will be fully honoured.

“[The document shows] the momentum of the people of God for change.”

The document has been sent ahead of the church's Synod of Bishops called by Pope Francis to take place in October.

The report particularly focuses on the equal treatment of women in terms of leadership and decision-making within the church, with the role of women in the church mentioned in almost every submission by the dioceses.

It also recognises that many young people cannot understand the Church's position on women: "Because of the disconnect between the Church's view of women and the role of women in wider society today," young people perceive the Church as "patriarchal" and "misogynistic".

Elsewhere in the report, there was "a clear, overwhelming call for the full inclusion of LGBTQI+ people in the Church, expressed by all ages, particularly by the young and by members of the LGBTQI+ community".

It added: "Our listening process has identified the need to be more inclusive in outreach, reaching out to those who have left the church behind and, in some cases, feel excluded, forgotten or ignored."

In his covering letter, Catholic Primate Archbishop Eamon Martin told Vatican officials the calls pointed to: "Many challenges for the handing of the faith in this country, including a need for inner healing and hope, especially among those who have suffered abuse by church personnel and in church institutions."

He added the report called for: "Fresh models of responsibility and leadership which will especially recognise and facilitate the role of women, as well as men."

"Our listening process has identified the need to be more inclusive in outreach, reaching out to those who have left the church behind and, in some cases, feel excluded, forgotten or ignored," he said.

August 18, 2022

Dr Nicola Brady, chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Irish Church's Synodal Pathway who unveiled the report's contents in an address at Knock Novena, described some of the findings as "stark" and said that "many of the experiences shared are painful" but there were "many hopeful and encouraging aspects" to the findings.

Belfast Telegraph - August 17 2022

Perspective

Iona: Small island offering a vision of Hope by Ellen Teague

As the ferry pulled away from the tiny Hebridean island of Iona I ran a contemplative eye along the retreating coastline.

There was Martyrs Bay to the south, the Catholic House of Prayer on the hill above it, the ruins of the Augustinian nunnery, 1000-year-old Celtic crosses, the restored thirteenth century Benedictine Abbey, and on the northeast coast the pristine sand of the white strand of the monks.

Iona has been a spiritual centre for Scotland since the time of Saint Columba, who founded the first monastic community on the island in 563. Perhaps it is the centuries of prayer in a beautifully rugged landscape - a tranquil environment which also seems to honour God with its ancient rocks, sandy beaches, fresh air and glorious sunsets - which draws so many back regularly for spiritual

August 18, 2022

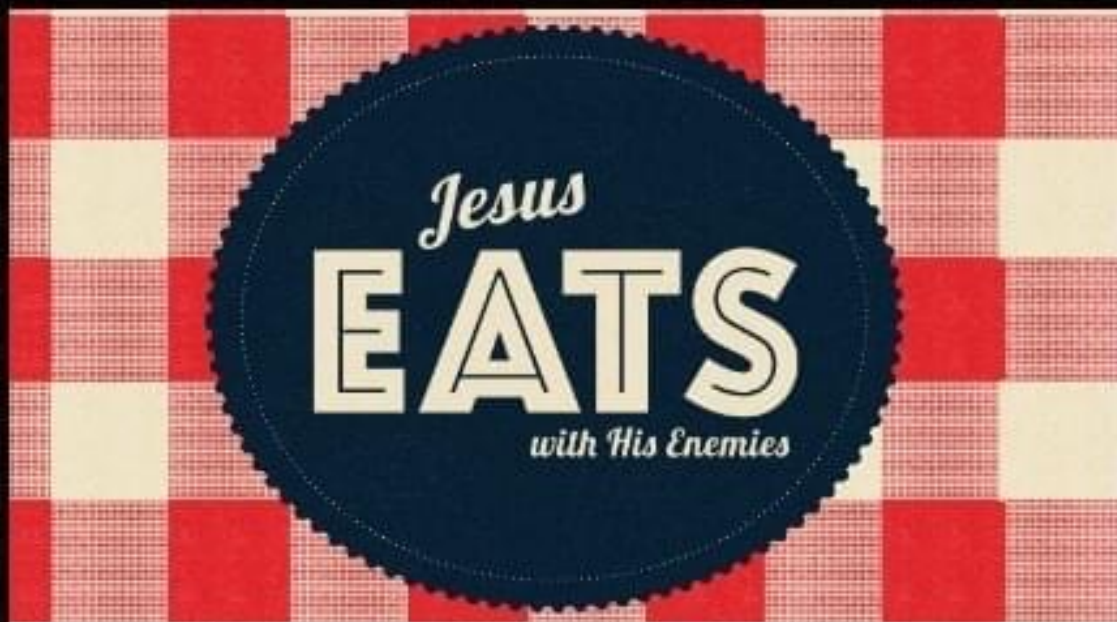
refreshment. Or perhaps it is also the love felt as people gather for prayer around the island.

My latest stay was at the Catholic House of Prayer, stunningly situated overlooking the Sound of Iona. Cnoc a' Chalmain or 'Hill of the Dove' was opened more than two decades ago. Eight beds are available to visitors, and priests can stay for free if they celebrate a daily Mass. Last week the resident priest was a Missionary of Africa with many years' experience in Tanzania and DR Congo. Such interesting discussions around the supper table! Breakfast and evening meal are provided. Behind the altar in the house's serene Oratory sits a Celtic cross made from distinctive Iona green marble and the house is adorned with paintings of Iona by Mary Burn-Murdoch, who spent a decade working towards setting up the house, famously drawing in Frances Shand Kydd as a trustee and fundraiser.

There are ample opportunities for reconnecting with God in the natural environment of Iona. Walking down to the wonderfully named Bay at the Back of the Ocean and just sitting there for a couple of hours, hearing the waves lap, is one of them. Another is a stroll down to the evening service at the Abbey, which is always lay led and participatory, but bring a torch because the island can be pitch black when you leave. Noticing stars for the first time in several years is wonderful, but it's nice to be able to find the way home! One lunchtime visitors were invited to a 'Singing for Creation' session where we had enormous pleasure finding ourselves singing in glorious harmonies.

My first two visits involved workshops and retreats at Iona Abbey, which is run by the ecumenical and international

It's the Lord's Table and the Lord's Invitation.



Come, sinners, to the gospel feast;
let every soul be Jesus' guest.
Ye need not one be left behind,
for God hath bid all humankind.
Sent by my Lord, on you I call;
the invitation is to all.

Come, all the world! Come, sinner, thou!
All things in Christ are ready now.
This is the time, no more delay!
This is the Lord's accepted day.
Come thou, this moment, at his call,
and live for him who died for all.

Rev. Mr. Charles Wesley
HYMN "Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast" (1747)

August 18, 2022

Iona Community. They were worship-focused, using music from the world church, and led by the famous Wild Goose Resource Group. The group's name comes from the representation of the Holy Spirit as a wild goose in Celtic tradition. Indeed, as you walk around the island you can often hear wild geese overhead. The content reflects the Community's commitment to linking worship with social justice. Course participants helped plan the services, held around sunset after the day visitors had gone. Communal singing with Revd John Bell, Graham Maule and Alison Adam was a joy.

On this visit, we experienced a healing service of prayers for healing. We took three names from a basket of names of people requesting prayers. I still remember and pray for my three names, and it is a wonderful affirmation of Christian community that we care for each other. On another evening prayer, the focus was on God's Creation, and I marvelled at the effort of displaying a large circular 'globe' and covering it with plants and animals as the creation narrative from Genesis was read. Then there was a symbolic destruction of elements of God's creation and a penitential call for humanity to value the diversity and fruitfulness of creation. Walking around the abbey afterwards I noticed its permanent memorial to victims of conflict and a 'gift to the Iona Community' in Arabic Calligraphy, 'Peace be with you.' The abbey exudes inclusivity and engagement with world issues, as well as a sense of peace.

For years, the Community has led a weekly pilgrimage around the island. Nowadays there is a simultaneous easier version, but it is the long one that I have done twice. It takes around five hours and stops at places of historical and

religious significance. All ages participate, travelling together, sharing food, jokes, stories, songs, prayers and silence - a chance to help each other over stiles, up and down hills and out of bogs! At the island's crossroads pilgrims are encouraged to reflect upon their life journeys and chosen paths. There is the stop at Columba's Bay, where St Columba first landed in the 6th century. Here, pilgrims pick up two stones from the pebbly beach. One is thrown back into the sea as a symbol of something in our lives that we want to leave behind and the other is kept back as a sign of a new commitment made.

Martyrs Bay is so named because of the murder of 68 monks there in the ninth century by Vikings, but it is also the site of the island's war memorial. An 18-year-old and 19-year-old were among young islanders killed in the 1914-1918 war. We were reminded that, despite the quietness of the island, violence has visited it throughout the centuries, and we prayed for peace.

Forthcoming residential events with the Iona Community include a youth festival at the end of July and, into August, a creative worship workshop led by the inspirational Wild Goose Resource Group. And what about Christmas on Iona in December. All Iona Community work is permeated by the core values of the Iona Community: working for justice, healing and peace in our localities and for the whole of creation. They have a big presence in Glasgow and a huge group walked in the COP26 march for Climate justice through the city last November.

Bishop's House is the oldest retreat house on the island and the Anglican/Episcopalian centre is situated close to Iona

August 18, 2022

Abbey. A field path from the house leads into the back of the Abbey, which a visitor has described as "an entrancing walk above the shore, through calling corncrakes in midsummer". And look out for the mauve heath-spotted orchid, purple thistles and red poppies. A delight is watching the sparrows at play in the ruined nunnery, which they have made their home.

Iona may be remote, and at the end of two boat trips and a trek across Mull, but, as I looked back on the lovely island diminishing into the mist, I thanked God for a few days of utter tranquillity.

A card I picked up in the Iona Community Gift Shop showed an Iona Dawn and the lines:

Look to this day;
Yesterday is already a dream
And tomorrow is only a vision,

But today well-lived
Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

LINKS

Catholic House of Prayer: www.catholic-iona.com/

Iona Community: <https://iona.org.uk/>

CNI

Poem for today

After Apple-Picking by Robert Frost

My long two-pointed ladder's sticking through a tree
Toward heaven still,
And there's a barrel that I didn't fill
Beside it, and there may be two or three
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough.
But I am done with apple-picking now.
Essence of winter sleep is on the night,
The scent of apples: I am drowsing off.
I cannot rub the strangeness from my sight
I got from looking through a pane of glass
I skimmed this morning from the drinking trough
And held against the world of hoary grass.
It melted, and I let it fall and break.
But I was well
Upon my way to sleep before it fell,
And I could tell
What form my dreaming was about to take.
Magnified apples appear and disappear,
Stem end and blossom end,
And every fleck of russet showing clear.
My instep arch not only keeps the ache,
It keeps the pressure of a ladder-round.
I feel the ladder sway as the boughs bend.
And I keep hearing from the cellar bin
The rumbling sound
Of load on load of apples coming in.
For I have had too much

August 18, 2022

Of apple-picking: I am overtired
Of the great harvest I myself desired.
There were ten thousand thousand fruit to touch,
Cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall.
For all
That struck the earth,
No matter if not bruised or spiked with stubble,
Went surely to the cider-apple heap
As of no worth.
One can see what will trouble
This sleep of mine, whatever sleep it is.
Were he not gone,
The woodchuck could say whether it's like his
Long sleep, as I describe its coming on,
Or just some human sleep.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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