



## Spitfire at Cathedral for RAF100 service



**The Ulster Aviation Society's Spitfire replica has been very popular wherever it has appeared at various community events in the past few years.**

Would you like to see a replica of a Spitfire Mark 2a!? Then visit Writers Square opposite St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on 29th April.

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The Down Spitfire replica is owned by the Ulster Aviation Society and has been painted in the design of Spitfire P7823 of 504 Squadron which served with the RAF.

The last pilot of the P7823 was Walter McManus from Ontario, Canada. He was killed when the aircraft crashed in January 1942, north of Lurgan. The cause of the crash was never determined. For more info on the Spitfire: <http://ulsteraviationsociety.org/spitfire-replica>

## **Launches of Bishop of Cashel's book on literacy empowering women**

A book of reflections on the subject of the empowerment of women through literacy will be launched at the General Synod on May 10th 2018.

It is the result of a whistle-stop preaching tour by Bishop Michael Burrows, Church of Ireland Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, in his Diocese in September 2017.

Over seven days he visited 66 churches and schools in his Diocese giving a short sermon at each venue related to one of the 66 books of the Bible – hence the title Route 66 – and focussing on women's issues in Old and New Testament times as well as in the present day.

€40,000 was raised for Bishops' Appeal by this project and the money forwarded to Mothers' Union and Feed the Minds women's literacy projects in Ethiopia and the Congo.

The sermons, now in book form and published by the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, provide a 2017 social and spiritual snapshot as well as an insight into the Church of Ireland mindset of the present day.

Bishop Burrows' goal was also to highlight the less-read books of the Bible and to remind us to 'read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the message that Scripture offers us, near and far.'

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“This was a journey through all the books of the Bible,” he says, “with an emphasis on what is often hidden – the presence and the role of women. Not only do we consider the gifts and potential of women as humans sharing the image of God, we also explore feminine imagery surrounding the divine.”

The calling of Mary, the God-bearer, is celebrated, for example, and the special friendships which Jesus himself valued with women are also remembered.

“We also recognise that among the best ways in our time to strengthen the witness of the Body of Christ is through the empowerment of women,” he adds.

“Particularly in the developing world, it is women who share the benefits of their education with their families, who work effectively for equality and opportunity and who together hasten the breaking in of the Kingdom of God.”

In the past Bishop Burrows has undertaken ‘peregrinations’ every two years and similar marathons have included his Good Friday rapid rail trip ‘Stations at the Stations’, a cross-county vintage vehicle event and a church organ playing tour.

The book will be launched by the Very Reverend Maria Jansson, Dean of Waterford, at the General Synod and by Mrs Phyllis Grothier, All-Ireland President of the Mothers’ Union, at the Diocesan launch on May 16th in Christ Church, Gorey.

Profits from the book will be added to the Knox Bequest Fund which offers grants to individuals and groups in the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory wishing to publish work related to their parishes or to the wider Diocese.

Route 66: Empowerment of women through literacy costs €5 (plus €3 p&p) will be available from the Diocesan Office, The Palace Coach House, Church Lane, Kilkenny after May 10th. The office can be contacted by telephone on 056 7761 910.

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## **The Queen and the Pope welcome copies of Strabane Parish History**

A Strabane father and son have been thanked by both the Queen and the Pope for sending them copies of a new history of a Church of Ireland church in Tyrone.

The book, 'Upon This Rock' – an updated and illustrated history of Christ Church Strabane – was compiled by Gordon and Trevor Smyth and is the result of many months of painstaking research and hard work.

The two men say they've been "overwhelmed" by the support and encouragement they have received – not only from the parishioners of Christ Church Strabane but from other parishes and the wider community.

The book was officially launched in November last year in the presence of the Bishop of Derry & Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, and the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Maolísa McHugh. It includes a chapter on the renowned hymn-writer Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, who was married in the Old Church at Patrick Street in 1850 and had strong connections with the parish.

The authors say the response to the book has exceeded all their expectations and copies have found their way to many parts of Ireland, Scotland, England and America, with copies also reaching Buckingham Palace and the Vatican.

Recently, Gordon and Trevor presented the Curate of Camus-Juxta-Mourne, Rev Mark Lennox, with a cheque for £1,800 – a first instalment of the proceeds from book sales so far, which will go directly towards church funds.

'Upon This Rock – An Illustrated History of Christ Church Strabane' continues to be on sale from Gordon Smyth, Trevor Smyth, Rev Mark Lennox, Vestry Members, The Lighthouse, The Alley Theatre, McFaddens' Newsagents, The Bus Stop Castlederg, Artigarvan Spar, Sinclair Furnishings Newbuildings, McCurdy's Electrical Strabane, The Holy Shop and The Stables Sion Mills, or by

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contacting 07776 425701. Online sales are also available, through [uponthisrock.bigcartel.com](http://uponthisrock.bigcartel.com)

## **Stolen heart of St Laurence O'Toole to return to Christ Church Cathedral**

The heart of St Laurence O'Toole, Dublin's patron saint, will be returned to its rightful home in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, this evening, Thursday April 26, at 6pm. The relic was stolen from the cathedral in March 2012 and after a six year absence has been recovered undamaged.

A long running investigation by An Garda Síochána led to the recovery of the heart. That investigation is ongoing.

The heart will be presented by Assistant Commissioner Pat Leahy to the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, at a service of Choral Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral, at 6pm this evening.

Archbishop Jackson said that the return of the heart is of huge significance to the people of Dublin.

"The return of the heart of Laurence O'Toole to Christ Church Cathedral brings great joy to the people of Dublin as Dubliners. For those of us associated with the life of the dioceses, it brings again to the fore the close relationship between Glendalough and Dublin, a relationship of more than 800 years. Laurence left the monastic city of Glendalough of which he was Abbot to become Archbishop of Dublin, hence cementing a vibrant relationship that continues unabated to this day," he stated.

"Our deep thanks and warm appreciation go to all who have worked tirelessly to make this day of restoration possible, particularly the Garda Síochána," he added.

The cathedral's Dean, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, said he was delighted that the relic had been recovered.

"I am delighted that the heart will be back in the cathedral. I am grateful to the Gardaí for all the work they have done in recovering it. I said at the time it was stolen that the relic has no economic



value but it is a priceless treasure that links the cathedral's present foundation with its founding father, St Laurence O'Toole. It gives joy to my heart that the heart has been returned to the city," the Dean stated.

Assistant Commissioner Leahy said it was a

privilege to be able to return the relic.

"As Assistant Commissioner for Dublin it gives me enormous pleasure to return such a valuable relic to its rightful place among the people of Dublin. It is not very often that we get an opportunity to engage in such a positive activity that affects the citywide community and in that regard I am acutely aware of the privilege that has been bestowed upon An Garda Síochána on this occasion. It is appropriate to acknowledge the great work of individual Gardaí who kept their radars on and their minds open in this ongoing investigation and I commend them for their commitment and diligence on this matter. I am personally delighted to return the relic to Christ Church Cathedral where it can again provide a most important and tangible link to our past," he commented

Following the theft of the heart, Dean Dunne appealed to the person who stole it to return it and he would ask no questions. He said he is happy now to let the Gardaí continue their investigations.

A proper shrine to St Laurence will be instituted in Christ Church Cathedral where the people of Dublin can come to honour the memory of the patron saint of the city. Following the theft of the heart, security at the cathedral was reviewed and regular security reviews continue.

The preserved heart was stolen from the cathedral in March 2012. It was kept in a wooden heart-shaped box sealed within a small iron barred cage which was on the wall of St Laud's Chapel in the

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cathedral. It was recovered by Gardaí who have been investigating the theft ever since.

## **Rector's country music friends help raise 3K pounds for parish**



A night of country music in Eglantine Parish Hall on Thursday April 19 raised more than £3,000 for Parish Funds.

This is the third annual country music concert organised by the rector of Eglantine, the Rev Jason Kernohan, who is himself well known on the country scene.

A packed hall enjoyed music from Ireland's youngest star Owen Mac (aged just 14, photo left), Sean Loughery, Country Harmony and Jason

himself, along with a host of other performers. The concert was compered by Gary Wilson, the Fermanagh Funny Man!

## **Christian Aid TV service with Bishop Trevor Williams**

The televised Service on RTÉ1 on Sunday, 6th May, will focus on the work of Christian Aid. Bishop Trevor Williams, Chair of Christian Aid Ireland's Board of Trustees, will deliver a short address as part of the Service. The broadcast is scheduled to commence at 11.10am.

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## **Ulster University Choir evening in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry**

Ulster University Choir invite you to their evening of music in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry-Londonderry, next Monday 30th April. The programme will include:

Gabriel Faure Requiem in D minor, Op. 48

Paul Mealor Stabat Mater

The event will begin at 8pm. Admission free with a retiring collection. For further details contact: Development and Alumni Relations on 028 7167 5679 or [c.mullan@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:c.mullan@ulster.ac.uk)

## **Tribute to West Belfast Scout President**

William Humphries MLA and Scout leader stated - "This morning I attended the funeral of Jean Burton, in Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Jean had been leader of the 50th Beaver Colony (Glencairn) for many years. At West Belfast District level, Jean had been a long time Member of the District Executive and was a Vice-President of West District Scout Council.

"Jean Burton was one of the nicest, kindest people I've ever met. A real lady and a lovely gracious person. During my time as District Commissioner, Jean was of real support and encouragement to me.

"Deepest Sympathy to her husband Wesley, sons Stephen, David, Andrew and their families."





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