

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Gold D of E Awards at Hillsborough

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Image of the day



Gold D of E Awards at Hillsborough

The Patron of the Award scheme, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visited Hillsborough Castle this week for a Gold Award celebration event.

140 Gold D of E Award holders were present and their success was celebrated.

Emily Conn of Carnmoney Parish C G & GLB was present. She met Dame Mary Peters, and DJ Pete Snodden (a former member of Bangor Abbey CLB Company), and the Duke, of course.

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Emily Conn, her father and Dame Mary Peters

For information on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, visit www.dofe.org. It is currently estimated that 24,483 people have started their Gold Award since April 2022

People and places

Feedback from Ballyclare and Dundela Mission team to Tujisaidie

It was wonderful for the Tujisaidie Team (Rev Jonny Campbell Smyth, Linda Allen and Lynn Wilson) to meet up

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with CMSI Mission Associate Isabelle Prondzynki at the CMSI office recently.

Isabelle, who was accompanied by her friend Clodagh, explained how the Tujisaidie Self-Help Group came into being back in 1992 and how it has developed over the years.

The three team members then gave feedback from their recent visit to Kenya, with profound appreciation for all the





support they received from Community members on the ground.

The team discussed how the partnership with their respective churches (United Parish of Ballyclare & Ballynure and St Mark's Dundela) will hopefully continue and deepen in the future, before Roger closed the meeting with prayer.

Delight and celebration for first ordained local ministers in making of deacons in Derry

The Bishop of Derry & Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster has ordained two new deacons at a St Peter's Day service in St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry.

They are Rev Brian Robinson (who will serve in the Balteagh Group of Parishes) and Rev Sean McClafferty (who will serve in the Taughboyne Group).



Rev McClafferty's wife, Jennifer, and their daughter, Zara, were in the Cathedral for the service, as were Rev Robinson's wife, Mary, his mother, Joyce, and his son, Andrew.

In the days leading up to the service, the two new deacons were on retreat with Bishop Andrew and the Diocese's two Archdeacons, Venerable David Huss and Venerable Robert Miller.

Bishop Andrew said it was a pleasure and an honour to welcome the congregation to St Columb's Cathedral on a very, very special occasion. It was, he said, an evening of delight and celebration, but it was also an evening of solemnity and prayer. "We know that this step of faith, that Sean and Brian take, is of deep significance to them and to



the whole Church," Bishop Andrew said, "so, we come seeking the support, the help and the equipping of God's Holy Spirit."

The Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, and the Parish of Templemore's Pastoral Assistant, Rev Canon John Merrick, took part in the service, along with the Bishop and the two Archdeacons. The Diocesan Registrar, Rev Canon David Crooks, and the Balteagh Group Rector, Rev Rhys Jones, delivered the first and second readings, and the Dean read the Gospel.

In his sermon, Bishop Andrew described ordinations as "special" occasions.

"They are so special in the lives of those who are being ordained. They are so special in the life of the Diocese.



Support from the Order of St John

They are so special in the life of the whole Church of Jesus Christ. And tonight has an added specialness, if you like, because it marks the beginning of a new form of ministry in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe - OLM, in shorthand, which stands for Ordained Local Ministry. It's a ministry and as ministry evolves and changes, as we seek to meet the challenges of today, OLM is a really positive step forward as we see ministry grow in the parish for the parish. And that's been the joy of seeing Brian's and Sean's ministry grow within their parish settings and now being released within those parishes for service.

"I know all of us feel so thankful for Sean and for Brian, for the men that they are; for the families that they have; for the friendships that they nurture; and for the service to God and

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to His Church that they humbly give, day in, day out. They're two fine men, and it is a privilege for me to count them not only as brothers in ministry but as dear friends, also.

"Today marks for them a new chapter in the story of their lives, and I know in that story that they have deeply experienced in their own lives the Good News of God, the leading of God and the great love of God that has brought them to this point."

Bishop Andrew emphasised the significance of the arrival of OLM ministry in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe. "As this new sphere of service begins, tonight, your families, your friends, your parishes, the Diocese and, indeed, the whole Church of Jesus Christ is right with you, it delights in you, and tonight we want to bless you in the name of God as you take this hugely significant step in your journey of faith.

"I love an ordination service, and I hope you're all really getting that! It's a time of celebration and it's a time of anticipation. Tonight, Brian and Sean, we celebrate you and we joyfully anticipate all that God has [in store] for you as you continue to serve Him. And an ordination reminds us - all of us, not just those who are being ordained but all of us - it reminds the whole Church of Jesus Christ that we are bearers of Good News, that we share light where there is darkness, that we bring hope instead of despair, that we share purpose instead of disillusionment.

"Tonight, as we celebrate and anticipate, we delight in the power of the Gospel to bring salvation and hope to a needy world."

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Young church volunteers ride the Glider to adventures

The young volunteers from St John's Church on the Falls Road in Belfast had a fabulous time on a city trip.



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They took the Glider to East Belfast, McDonalds, the Narnia Trail at CS Lewis Square, and the Connswater Greenway, and Victoria Park. Then it was ice cream before returning safely back to St John's.

Thanks to Catriona and Conor the young adult leaders who helped out ensuring that everyone had a great time.

News reports

Archbishop Eamon Martin to join pilgrim climb on Croagh Patrick for Reek Sunday

Father Charlie McDonnell welcomes dedication of Reek Sunday pilgrimage to the Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood

Mass will be celebrated on the hour from 8.00am on the summit of Croagh Patrick

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On 30 July next, Archbishop Eamon Martin will join with thousands of pilgrims of all ages in the annual pilgrimage to the summit of Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain, for Reek Sunday 2023.

Father Charlie McDonnell PP, Administrator of the local parish of Westport, Co Mayo, in the Archdiocese Tuam, welcomed the news that Archbishop Martin will celebrate Mass in Westport on 29 July, and on the summit of Croagh Patrick on Reek Sunday, and also that this year's Reek Sunday pilgrimage has been designated as one of the key initiatives to highlight the Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood, which is taking place across Ireland over 2023 – 2024.

Father McDonnell said, "I am delighted that for this Reek Sunday we will be joined by the successor of Saint Patrick, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, who will join us on our pilgrimage and celebrate Mass with Archbishop Francis Duffy in Westport, and also on the summit of Croagh Patrick."

Regarding the dedication of this year's Reek Sunday pilgrimage to vocations to the priesthood, Father McDonnell said, "our Church needs vocations to the priesthood like never before. No doubt it is a challenging time to minister as a priest, but in my role I find that serving the people of God in today's counter-cultural environment is nothing short of a faith-enriching experience. I love being a priest and I draw spiritual strength from the people I meet every day on the journey of life. For this Reek Sunday, I invite any man who is discerning a vocation to the priesthood to avail of the opportunity to come to Croagh Patrick and pray, climb and

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Lower North Belfast

Donate school uniforms so that they can be used by another pupil next term.

Donations can be left at

Alexandra Presbyterian Church (Wednesday 28th -Friday 30th June

4:00-7:30pm, 5th July 3-8)

The McDonald Centre (when open)

Challenge Training Studios (Monday-Friday 4-8, Saturday 10-1)

Seaview Presbyterian Church

Grove Housing Association (Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-4:30 or

Wednesday 9:30-1)

Or check with your school!

More information available on our social media.



Collect your uniform from Alexandra Presbyterian Church August 3-August 4, 3:00pm-7:00pm





reflect with other priests and members of the faithful. To help raise awareness of vocations, a special ‘Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood’ stand will be in place on Reek Sunday morning, at the base of Croagh Patrick, to offer information on the priesthood.”

Father McDonnell continued, “In advance of the pilgrimage, I appeal to any priest in a position to minister the Sacraments over the Reek weekend, to contact me by email as soon as possible on frchaz@gmail.com.”

Father McDonnell also spoke of the importance of conserving the natural environment of Croagh Patrick for current and for future generations. He said, “Croagh Patrick is an iconic feature of the Mayo landscape and is of

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significant natural, cultural and spiritual importance. In recent years the Croagh Patrick Stakeholders' Group has achieved monumental success in helping to preserve and safeguard the mountain. However, we cannot do this alone. As the largest annual gathering on the Reek, it is essential that Reek Sunday pilgrims – and indeed all pilgrims – play their responsible part to sustain this holy site for future generations. The Church has actively engaged with other stakeholders to undertake the 'Sustainable Access and Habitat Restoration Project' to provide a robust path for access, and to restore the eroded parts of the mountain. In this regard we are committed to minimising the impact of the pilgrimage on the drinking water of the mountain streams, on the local community and on other users of the mountain. To help us to achieve these aims, we ask of each pilgrim to adhere to the following best practice guidance See:

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2023/06/30/primate-of-all-ireland-archbishop-eamon-martin-to-join-pilgrim-climb-on-croagh-patrick-for-reek-sunday/>

Anglican Secretary General uses speech to Canadian General Synod to urge “moderate language” over disagreements

Anglicans should use moderate language and not be judgmental as they discuss areas of disagreement. That was the message from the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Anthony Poggio, today (Wednesday) in a speech to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

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“As we move forward as a Communion, let us also consider our contexts”, he said. “Let us acknowledge and respect the different contexts of the Anglican Communion. On the issues that we disagree on, it is important that we moderate our language and not be judgemental in our response. Such respect needs to be extended to those who we do not agree with within our own provinces, dioceses or regions.”

He made the comments after summarising various initiatives underway to reshape the Instruments of Communion – the four uniting bodies of the Anglican Communion: the Anglican Consultative Council, the Primates’ Meeting, the Lambeth Conference and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Anglican Communion is a family of 42 autonomous and independent-yet-interdependent regional, national and pan-national churches active in more than 165 countries around the globe.

Bishop Anthony said: “The Anglican Church in Canada and its members, First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, is one of the 42 autonomous yet interdependent provinces in the Anglican Communion and is a very valued member. We are a Communion that spans over 165 countries with an estimated membership of 86 million people, consisting of different languages, cultures, contexts, challenges, and expectations.

“Of course, we also remember the last Anglican Congress, which met in Toronto in 1963. At that meeting, the whole Anglican Communion committed itself to ‘mutual



The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Anthony Poggo, addresses members of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, during their triennial meeting in Calgary, Alberta

responsibility and interdependence.’ That high standard is a calling from God that we all should cherish and seek to cultivate: a deep common concern for one another, and concern for our unity of faith and life.”

The Synod agenda includes a draft resolution calling for peace in Sudan, where an armed conflict between rival factions that broke out in April has resulted in an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 deaths, two million internally displaced people, and 600,000 people who have sought sanctuary in other countries.

“While it is not my role to influence your debate and voting, I do want to indeed highlight the draft resolution calling for

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peace in Sudan”, Bishop Anthony said. “As I have said, each of the 42 provinces of the Anglican Communion are independent and autonomous, but they are also interdependent. This draft resolution is an example of one province offering support and, solidarity with another.

“Archbishop Linda, I know you know Archbishop Ezekiel \ [Kondo, Bishop of Khartoum and Archbishop of Sudan]. You meet at Primates’ Meetings. Your ACC members know the Episcopal Church of Sudan’s ACC members. They meet at plenary sessions.

“It is this – the inter-connectedness across continents, cultures and languages – which is the strength of our Anglican Communion.

“In my recent communication with Archbishop Ezekiel, he asked for prayers for peace in Sudan. And I do hope that this Synod will do exactly that.”

Read Bishop Anthony's full speech here.

[\[https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2023/06/anglican-communion-secretary-general-urges-moderate-language-over-disagreements.aspx\]](https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2023/06/anglican-communion-secretary-general-urges-moderate-language-over-disagreements.aspx)

In the media

Terrible day for the RTE Team

Irish Times

In a toe-curling string of lowlights, the excruciating standout came when Sinn Féin’s Johnny Brady asked RTÉ's chief

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financial officer how much he is paid.. Mortifyingly long pause. “I don’t know what my exact salary is, off the top of my head...”.



Subscriber only article 1 euro. Link at - <https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/oireachtas/2023/06/29/miriam-lord-a-terrible-day-for-the-rte-team-thoroughly-demolished-by-the-pac-and-with-another-rematch-on-the-cards/>

St Patrick's College: Teachers in Dungannon raise concerns

BBC

A teaching union has said that a number of its members at a County Tyrone school have raised concerns about working conditions and wellbeing.

The Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) is carrying out an anonymous health and wellbeing survey at St Patrick's College in Dungannon.

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Most of the teachers are in INTO.

But the Council for Catholic Maintained School (CCMS) said the school leadership is "well placed to be able to deal with any significant issues".

As St Patrick's College is a Catholic maintained school, CCMS has responsibility for its management along with the school governors.

More at -

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66057805>]



Peter Brookes cartoon in The Times -

Yesterday Friday 30, June. The Court of Appeal ruled that the government's Rwanda plan is unlawful.

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Lecale Trinity Grammar: Controversial new merger school named

BBC

A new school in Downpatrick created as the result of a controversial merger is to be called Lecale Trinity Grammar.

The post-primary will merge St Patrick's Grammar with non-selective schools St Mary's High and De La Salle.

Academic selection will be used to admit about 30% of pupils to the new school every year.

The long-running merger plan had attracted both strong opposition and support before being approved by former Education Minister Michelle McIlveen. More at -

[\[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66046719\]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66046719)

Erne Integrated College: New board of governors appointed

BBC

A new board of governors has been appointed at a County Fermanagh secondary school after almost all of the members of the previous board quit.

News that nine of the 11 governors at Erne Integrated College in Enniskillen had resigned emerged in May.

It was described by one teaching union as a "very unusual situation".

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No explanation has been given by the school to why the governors resigned but the school's principal described the situation as "temporary".

At the time, principal Jimmy Jackson-Ware thanked the governors for their support and hard work.

A board of nine governors has now been appointed.
More at -

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66058119>]

People 'watching sports' and using FaceTime while driving not breaking law, Policing Authority told

Irish Times

Assistant Commissioner says more drivers looking at screens but legislation centres on 'holding' phones

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Gardaí are encountering more motorists watching video or live TV broadcasts on their phones or conducting FaceTime conversations while driving and cannot prosecute them because they are not in breach of any road traffic laws, a Policing Authority meeting has heard.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/2023/06/29/people-watching-sports-and-using-facetime-while-driving-not-breaking-law-policing-authority-told/>

Speaking to the soul

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