

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Cathedral Peregrine in residence

Image of the day

Cathedral Peregrine in residence

Cathedrals are accustomed to prebendaries and precentors.

Derby cathedral has both and gone a step further. Courtesy of photographer Brett Sentance Derby's Peregrine in residence says hello!

A young pair of Peregrine Falcons first nested at Derby Cathedral in 2006 when a small wooden ledge was installed on the East face of the tower. In the following months three chicks were raised there.

Those chicks fledged and left the city that summer and two more were raised in 2007. It was then that two web cams were installed, broadcasting the progress of the Peregrines through the day and night to hundreds of thousands of people from Derby to Timbuktu!

A further two have since been added. So far over 3.5 million hits from over 70 countries have been recorded

You can keep up to date with the Cathedral Peregrines at derbycathedral.org/peregrines

People and places

Belfast boy asks for donations to local hostel instead of birthday presents

Harry McAlpin asked all of his friends to bring donations to his birthday party to help others in need

The young East Belfast boy has been praised after asking friends to bring donations for a local hostel to his birthday party instead of presents.

Harry McAlpin asked all of his friends to bring donations to his birthday party to help others in need

Harry McAlpin, who is due to turn 12 on July 26, made the gesture in order to support the Hosford Homeless Project run by the East Belfast Mission as he wanted to help others who are struggling or going through difficult times.

Irish Methodist links with South Africa

The Rev Robin Waugh and his wife Deryn, son Nathan and daughter Rachel, are currently in South Africa visiting family.

They were able to take some time to visit The Methodist Church in Ireland WDR partner, Phakamisa, based in Pinetown, and meet the Director, Zethu Kuzwayo. WDR are



looking forward to welcoming Zethu to Northern Ireland in September!

Pictured (L-R): Nathan, Robin, Zethu, Deryn and Rachel.

Find out more about Phakamisa: <https://irishmethodist.org/world-development-our-partners/phakamisa>

News briefs

Cleenish Sunday School - celebrated their year with the receiving of gifts on Sunday 11th June. 'Thanks to Rowena

and her assistants - Sharon, Rhonda, Claire and Shirley. Have a great summer and we will see you all in September!'

First Portadown - had a great Men's Evening at Ahorey, thanks to the two Georges, George Barclay and George Crymble.



THE FIRST COLUMBAN TO DIE IN CHINA

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Fr Charles Cullen, the first Columban buried in China. Historian Fr Neil Collins recalls his life and death.

Charles Cullen was born in Dungiven, Co Derry, on 18th April 1896 and died suddenly in China on 23rd July 1923. His father, also Charles, from Ballyknockan, Co Wicklow, taught in the Dungiven Boys' School from 1892. He married Mary Teresa O'Neill, a native of Co Derry, on 9th November 1893. They had two sons, James and Charles, before moving to Hilltown, Co Down, in 1897. Ten more children were born there.

Young Charles studied in St Columb's College, Derry, where his mother's first cousin, Walter O'Neill, was dean, and went to Maynooth in 1914 for the Diocese of Derry. Edward Galvin arrived home from China in August 1916 and the Irish bishops gave him permission to recruit missionaries for China. Charles "thought it my duty to go where priests are most needed" and when the Columban seminary Dalgan Park in Shrule, Co Mayo opened on 29th January 1918 he was one of the first group of nineteen students.

David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, decided to introduce conscription in Ireland and the Irish bishops, meeting in Maynooth on 18th April 1918, opposed it. They rushed the ordinations of all senior classes, and included the Columbans, so that Charles became a sub-deacon on 26th April 1918. He was ordained priest on 9th June 1921.

The first group of Columbans went to China in 1920. Charles Cullen and ten others, the second batch, sailed from Cobh on 8th September 1921 on RMS Albania.



Charles and his companions arrived in Shanghai on 13th December 1921. The next morning they were on the steamer Luck Wu reaching Hanyang on Saturday 17th December.

Charles described the Columban mission, as big as Munster, with a population of five million, 14,000 of them Christian, and 26 priests. Travel was not easy. "Here if you cannot get a boat you have to walk it, but luckily there are many waterways and it is easy to get most of the way by boat; yet these travel often at a rate of a mile per hour so you can easily account for a week's journey up country."

The new arrivals settled into houses at Bai Yai Tai together with four Christian Brothers, and began to study Chinese, with five classes a day. In February Charles left the comforts of Hanyang to travel to Ko Cha Dzae, where he joined Richard Ranaghan from Killough, Co Down. It was a district of 1,200 sq miles "and scattered in clumps are some 1700 Christians, so you see there is a big area, and almost only one Christian to the square mile". The people lived in villages.

The church seated four hundred, the priests' house had five rooms with a separate kitchen, and there were schools and a boarding house for 20 boys. Straightaway Charles told his mother of some of the hazards: white ants which went for the woodwork; for malaria he planted sunflowers in their little garden since they were supposed to prevent it; bandits struck in April, carrying off three Catholic children and holding them for ransom. On another night he "stayed out until about 11.30pm armed with a revolver that was lent to us and a big electric torchlight".

His first task was to learn more Chinese. Neither he nor Ranaghan knew enough to hear confessions. Sick calls might involve a

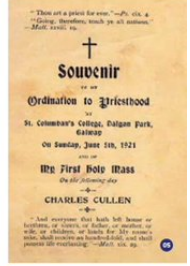
hike of 15 miles. The normal practice was to bring your bed and a Mass kit and stay overnight, but he preferred to return the same day.

In June 1922 he took the place of the priest in Tsan Dan Kow, surrounded by flooded rice fields and mosquitos. He got malaria and was ordered down to Hanyang. "When I arrived I looked pretty bad but it wasn't serious; now after about ten days all traces of the illness have gone away".

Towards the end of December Father Galvin sent him to Tai Lin Mao to relieve John Dawson. He had an attack of dysentery and on Dawson's return went to hospital in Hanyang.

In July 1923 Ranaghan was in Hanyang and Charles was alone. He complained of pains in his head and stomach but continued his work. On Friday, 13th July, he said Mass as usual but didn't want any breakfast. At about 5.30pm he was found dead. Dr Patrick J. O'Donoghue thought the cause was heart failure due to acute gastroenteritis. The people in Ko Cha Dzae kept vigil with the body. One man, who was not Christian, gave his own coffin for the burial. The funeral took place on Wednesday 18th July 1923.

Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the communist People's Republic of China on 1st October 1949. In the following years many churches were destroyed. The grave of Charles Cullen disappeared. Then in July 2012 Frs Dan Troy, Joseph Li Changjie, and Zeng Xionghua found Ko Cha Dzae, now named Bai Guo Shu (White Fruit Tree), it's a small village, with about 50 houses. About 30 years ago a school was built but is now disused. Local residents told Fr Joseph that the church once stood on the property, and that a priest had been buried just beside the south wall of the church. On 9th May 2013 a stone mason erected a plaque in memory of Charles. ☛



Fr Neil Collins is from Co Derry. He was ordained in 1962 and served on mission in the Philippines. He is History Coordinator for the Columbans and the author of a number of books, including *A Mad Thing to Do - A Century of Columban Missions (1916-2016)*.

- 01. Fr Charles Cullen (1896-1923)
- 02. Fr Charles with pupils at Ko Cha Dzae school, China.
- 03. The commemorative plaque which was erected in May 2013 in the small village of Bai Guo Shu, China. The year of Fr Charles' birth is incorrect.
- 04. The grave in Dungiven where Fr Charles wanted to be buried.
- 05. Fr Charles Cullen's ordination prayer card.

Remembering Fr Charles Cullen - the First Columban to die in China.

Today, 13th July, the family of Fr Charles will commemorate the centenary of his death with Mass in Dungiven, Co Derry.

<https://columbans.ie/remembering-fr-charles-cullen-the-first-columban-to-die-in-china/>

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Jesuit Week at Knock Shrine County Mayo - will take place from 23 to 29 July 2023 with the theme 'Nourishment for a Hungry Heart'.

Sessions will take place throughout the day and will also include Mass in the Basilica at 12 noon each day.



<https://knockshrine.ie/nourishment-for-a-hungry-heart-jesuit-week-2023-at-knock-shrine/?>

Union Theological College MTh - Scott McMenemy recently graduated from UTC's MTh in New Testament programme. Follow the link below for Scott's reflections on his studies: <https://union.ac.uk/news/07/2023/student-testimonial-scott-mcmenemy-mth-new-testament>

More info on the MTh NT can be found here:

<https://union.ac.uk/programmes/mth>



Death-watch beetle - Regular maintenance of a historic building can mean the early discovery of such nasties as the death-watch beetle. The chomping and burrowing of their larvae can wreak havoc on elm and oak timbers. Find out how Churches Conservation Trust experts have arrested this in their blog: <http://ow.ly/3OWN50Cqqo8>



**Ordination
Congratulations
to -**

Bishop Walton
Empty who
recently
celebrated the
65th anniversary
of his ordination
on June 29.

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Re-imagining well underway at iconic Lurgan Parish Church



"I think it is tremendously exciting to have this focal point of the town and to be able to develop it in such a way that the town can get excited about it."

One of Ireland's largest parish churches is currently undergoing a huge restoration project aimed at revitalising the building for the future, Scott Mann writes in The Lurgan News.

To mark 300 years of their original building, Shankill Parish Church in Lurgan has launched its 'Re-Imagining Shankill

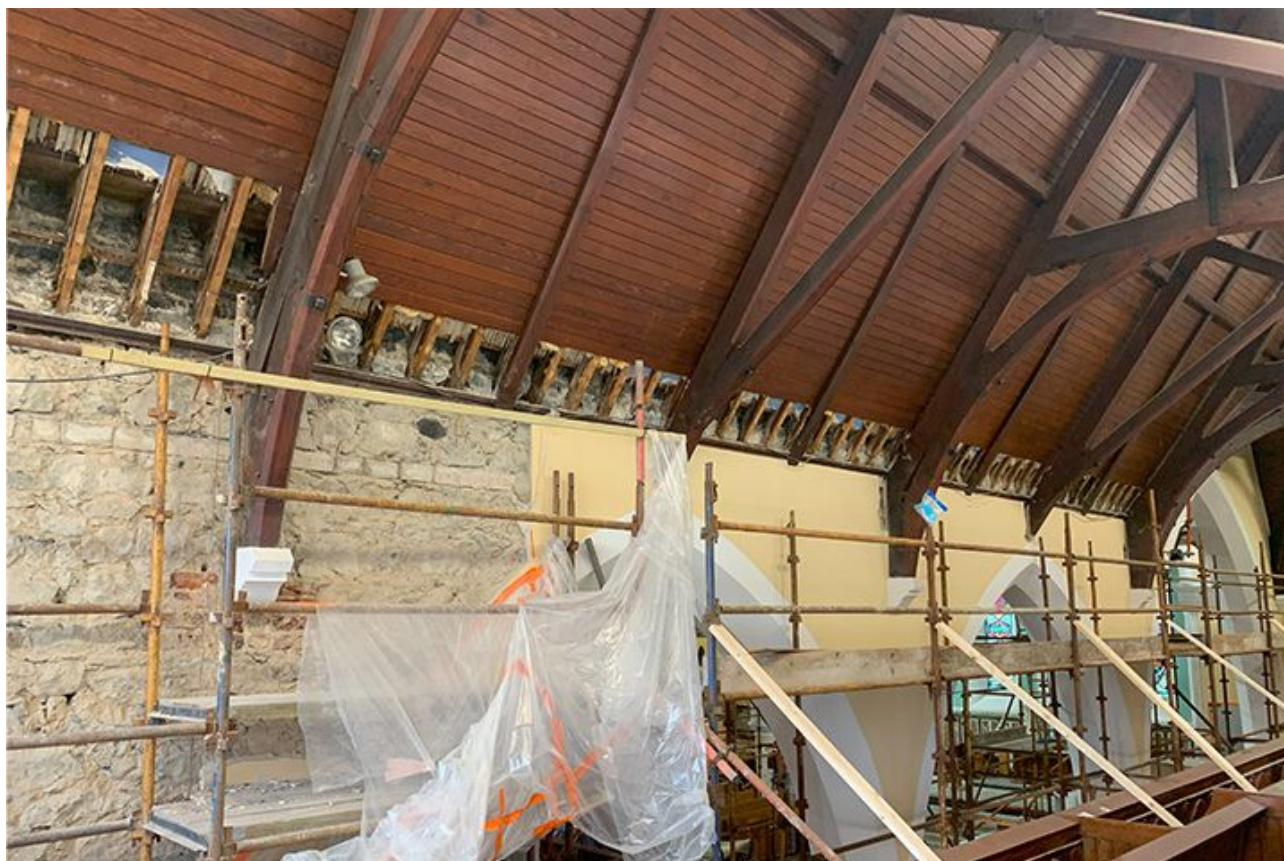


2025' project which aims to “restore and reorder” the building.

A Church of Ireland church has stood in the area since 1725, with the current building having been consecrated in 1863.

Canon Mark Harvey says the financially “colossal” project will bring a huge raft of benefits to both the parishioners of the church and the wider Lurgan community at large.

According to the church’s website, the stated aims of the renovations are to help them be a “vibrant church family” worshipping in a fully restored building and having the ability to reach out from the new building.



The building project, which started last year, comprises of four phases to be completed by 2025.

The first two phases, which are now completed, entailed the re-instatement of the church spire, and the treatment of dry rot, including the repair of all affected timbers and treatment of the stonework.

The restoration of the roof is currently on-going.

When that task has been completed, the final phase is the complete restoration and reordering of the church building.

Speaking to Armagh I about the project, Canon Harvey says that renovation to the inside of the church was being contemplated when he arrived in the Parish six years



However, 18 months ago an extensive outbreak of dry rot was discovered.

“That required immediate repair and that was when the church was initially closed for worship. We’re using the Jethro Centre at Flush Place at the other end of town on Sundays now. Initially, we were told that would take six to eight months to finish. It took a wee bit longer because it was quite extensive,” Mark said.

In the course of the repairs, an architect was commissioned to inspect the roof, which they discovered was in “very bad repair”.

Mark explained: “Local folks will have noticed about this time last year that there was some scaffolding on the spire. We had some repairs to do to the spire which which was

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really the first thing that we did. Then the dry rot outbreak was repaired.

“Those two phases are now complete and paid for and we’re now into the next phase, which is the roof and then the final phase after that will be the internal refurbishment of the church. This is to make it more welcoming, more accessible, more flexible – a building that will be fit for use for this current generation and for generations to come.”

He hopes that by the end of the process, the church will have a space that can be used by the wider community for large events, given the huge impact the church has had on the Lurgan skyline and its people for many years.

Mark added: “Going back to the mid-19th century, this beautiful big building has been part of the townscape of this place. It’s part of the fabric of the town. Wherever you go – in the Main Street or around the town – if you look, you can see the building in some shape or form. Whether it’s just the spire or whether it’s the building itself.

“I think it’s important for the community that the building is not just preserved.... but that it’s enhanced, it’s developed and it’s made fit for purpose, not just for us but so that we as a Parish can serve the community better.

“I think it is tremendously exciting to have this focal point of the town and to be able to develop it in such a way that the town can get excited about it and the town can really benefit from it. We hope that people will feel as the work continues that they can be a part of it as well.”

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You can follow the progress of the 'Re-imagining Shankill 2025' project on Shankill Parish Church's website.

[<https://www.shankillparish.co.uk/reimagining-shankill-2025>]

The General Synod has backed the parish as key to the spreading of the message of the Christian faith, in a debate where the local church was described as 'at the very heart' of God's mission.

Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, coming to Armagh cathedral's 150th anniversary

Next month Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, will visit Co Armagh to mark the 150th anniversary of St Patrick's Cathedral.

He will take part in a number of events in Armagh from August 24 to 27, finishing with a Mass of Thanksgiving in the cathedral at 11am on the Sunday.

Cardinal Dolan is the 10th Archbishop of New York, having been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009.

He served as the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2010 to 2013 and was elevated to the rank of cardinal in 2012.

Six years ago, he joined the archbishops of Armagh for their annual St Patrick's lecture.

The Archdiocese of Armagh said it was excited to welcome Cardinal Dolan, adding it was grateful he decided to visit



Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York

Armagh to help the Cathedral parish celebrate the anniversary.

Alongside the visit, the parish is organising a number of events and prayer evenings that it hopes will encourage parishioners to celebrate the occasion and hoped it would lead to more donations to the cathedral to help it continue to operate for many more years.

Archbishop Eamon Martin said: “Looking ahead, we aim to secure a regular support and enhancement income of at least £200,000 per annum for this unique building.

“We are conscious that this is a challenging time for fundraising, but as we emerge from the Covid pandemic, we

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move forward convinced that the people of today and tomorrow need more than ever the light of faith and hope.” St Patrick's Cathedral is one of Armagh's biggest tourist attractions, with many people from across the island of Ireland and further afield visiting for free throughout the year.

Archbishop Martin hopes this will continue and issued an open invitation to all visitors.

He added: “Join us as we preserve the treasured landmark and sacred space of St Patrick's Cathedral for generations to come and help us to ensure that our cathedral remains a living centre of prayer, tranquillity, and renewal for the next 150 years and beyond.”

News reports

Parish ‘at very heart’ of God’s mission, C of E General Synod hears

The parish is key to the mission of the Church of the England, a General Synod debate has heard.

The General Synod has backed the parish as key to the spreading of the message of the Christian faith, in a debate where the local church was described as ‘at the very heart’ of God’s mission.

Members were told that the parish system is central to the Church of England’s Vision for growth, in a debate led by



Rev Canon Kate Wharton, a General Synod member for the Diocese of Liverpool.

“The parish system exists not so that we can be territorial and protective of ‘our patch’ and work only in our own silos, but so that we can ensure that every single soul in the land is held within a system in which they matter and can be known,” she told the General Synod.

The General Synod members voted to welcome the Church’s commitment to increasing the numbers of ordinands, as well as an increasing emphasis on lay ministry and the expansion of Licenced Lay Ministers.

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Synod members further voted to encourage dioceses to work in new and creative ways to increase lay and ordained vocations.

“This isn’t about survival, somehow bringing in enough people and enough cash to ensure we can keep going. It isn’t about doing the box-ticking exercise which someone ‘out there’ has told us that we must do,” Rev Wharton said.

"It isn’t about doing more and more ‘stuff’ or finding just the right magic bullet approach that unlocks the success we’ve been looking for.

“Rather, this is about a community of believers coming together to dream dreams with God about what might be possible in his perfect plan for their future.”

Revitalising the parish for mission:

That this Synod:

#welcome the emphasis in the Church of England’s Vision and Strategy for the 2020s on the revitalisation of the parish for mission as one of the six ‘bold outcomes’;

#affirm the parish system as the central component of the mixed ecology as we seek to offer a living and contextually-appropriate expression of church for every person in England, and a vital means of fulfilling our calling to become younger and more diverse;

#note the research presented in ‘From Anecdote to Evidence’ as well as other recent research which contributes

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to our understanding of the factors supporting church growth and vitality;

#request the Archbishops' Council bring a report collating the research that has already been in place to a future group of sessions so that the Synod might have greater confidence that church growth and revitalisation alongside other mixed ecologies of church are taking place in line with our six bold outcomes,

enabling local churches to develop and implement local mission plans;

welcome the Church's commitment to increasing the numbers of ordinands, as well as increasing emphasis on lay ministry and the expansion of Licenced Lay Ministers in many dioceses;

encourage dioceses to work in new and creative ways to increase lay and ordained vocations;

encourage each parish and diocese support a process of local missional discernment (Mission Action Planning) to enable greater effectiveness in parochial mission and put a plan in place to meet the discerned missional outcomes to be reviewed annually.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



An American Kaleidoscope in Dublin at St Patrick's Cathedral

There is a treat in store for all visitors next Wed 19th July at 1pm. Oneida Area Civic Chorale will perform 'An American Kaleidoscope'. The choir, from New York State, is a non-auditioned community chorus that has been performing in the Oneida area since 1967. They bring an eclectic mix of musical styles from the United States which include contemporary choral composers, folk music and spirituals, Irish and Scottish music arranged by American composers and top off with a selection of songs from the American Songbook.

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Make sure to visit at 1pm on Wed 19th July by pre-booking your general admission ticket here:
<https://stpatrickscathedral.digitickets.ie/event-tickets/6314>

Orangefield Presbyterian Church Youth Support Worker

“We're seeking to employ a Part-Time Youth Support Worker to join a growing youth team in delivering generic youth work provision within our local community to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs of young people!”

.
If you would be interested in applying for the position, please contact the Church Office at 02890799391, or email the Office at office@orangefield.org.uk

.
The closing date for applications is Friday 21st July 2023!

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Want more information about the application? You can find the full document here: linktr.ee/orangefieldchurch

Church News Ireland

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