

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – The Strangford Lough Ferry

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The Strangford Lough Ferry

Linking the beautiful Ards Peninsula to the scenic Lecale Peninsula and the villages of Strangford and Portaferry, crossing a stretch of water known as the "Narrows".

The Anglo Norman Savage family, established the original ferry in 1188, making it the longest existing ferry service in the world.

The powerful current which rushes through The Narrows carries 400 million gallons of water with every tide. It is little wonder the Vikings named the Lough the 'Strong Fiord'.

With a journey time of around 10 minutes, the ferry crossing can save a 50 mile drive around the Lough and is an exciting experience for young and old as you take in the stunning scenery of this Marine Nature Reserve and try to spot seals, seabirds and jellyfish as the tide rushes past.

The ferry runs at 30 minutes intervals throughout the day, every day, apart from Christmas Day.

For more info, visit nidirect.gov.uk/articles/ferry-services

People and places




Pamela is Christian Aid Ireland's committed supporter in Ballyclare

Pamela Gray is one of Christian Aid Ireland's most committed supporters.

July 15, 2023

For 11 years, she has been our organiser in Ballyclare, County Antrim where she coordinates the fundraising efforts of ten local churches, which together have raised almost £90,000 for our work.

It's because of people like Pamela that we think Ballyclare should be re-named Bally-care.

Pamela, who is a part-time music teacher, also organises carol singing each Christmas at Belfast International Airport and Coleman's Garden Centre Templepatrick, bringing in almost £8,000 to support our projects overseas. 

Some years ago, Pamela visited our projects in Zimbabwe to see for herself the impact of her fundraising.

Pamela tells us that she was inspired to support Christian Aid when, while living in Bristol, she joined Redland Park United Reform Church whose congregation has been supporting our work over many years. It's a church dear to Pamela's heart and the place where she and her husband Paul were married in 1975.

Although she will continue with the carol singing each Christmas, Pamela is stepping down from her role as Ballyclare organiser. To mark her 'retirement' from her voluntary post, we presented her with some flowers against this beautiful backdrop at Chocoa cafe in Ballymena.

Many thanks to Pamela for her extraordinary commitment to the work of bringing hope to people living in poverty and crisis around the world.

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Pamela, you are blooming marvellous.

PS. The ten churches in Ballyclare are:

Ballyclare Methodist Church

Ballyclare Non-Subscribing Old Presbyterian Church

Ballyclare Presbyterian Church

St John's Church of Ireland, Ballyclare

Christ Church Church of Ireland, Ballynure

Ballynure Methodist Church

Ballynure Presbyterian Church

First Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church

Second Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church

Ballylinney Presbyterian Church



The Rt Revd Michael Burrows led the institution of the Revd Keith Barry as Incumbent of Nenagh Union of Parishes at Saint Mary's Church, Nenagh.

Light the Fire

August 6th Hill of Slane



Sr. Briega McKenna



Fr. Pablo Escriva
de Romani



Archbishop
Eamon Martin



Dana

12.15 Praise & Worship

1pm Gathering

1.15pm Rosary

Dana & Music Ministry
will sing Light the Fire

2pm Mass

- Talks • Eucharistic Healing Service

4.30pm Depart for home

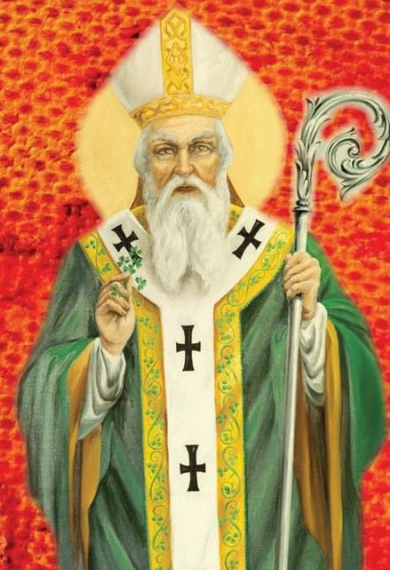
For further enquiries please email:
hillofslaneaugust6@gmail.com

- Please bring a fold up stool •

in the spirit of



Mary arose and went with haste



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Habitat Ireland update from Jordan

Team member Alex has sent the following - “The first few days in Jordan have been incredible with the Habitat Jordan team and local CBO.



“We have spent valuable time with the team learning more about what the vision and work habitat have in store for the local community.

“We have not only had the opportunity to meet amazing staff at the local CBO but also immerse ourselves in the culture and community.



“The local families have welcomed us with open arms preparing meals for us and we have had such a unique opportunity to get to know them.

“The local area is beautiful and the build is going well. Each



CONCERT

Friday
14 July
7:00 pm

Christ Church
Celbridge
Co. Kildare



FEATURING

Fairfax Choral Society

Michael Ehrlich | Artistic Director | Virginia



Admission Free



day we are seeing not only progress we have made but the joy this brings both to our team and the family.

“This trip has already been once in a lifetime and something I can see I will never forget. Cooking with the women, playing with the children and being a part of somebodies dreams become a reality. Moments I will cherish. Excited to see what more is to come.”



Church members in King's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to the Rev Tracey McRoberts, rector of St Matthew's Parish, Belfast, and Rural Dean of Mid-Belfast in Connor Diocese, who was awarded an MBE for services to the community in Belfast.



Rev Tracey McRoberts

Two people in Clogher Diocese have been recognised.

Genevieve Irvine, from the charity SWELL receives the BEM for services to people affected by cancer in Fermanagh while Brigadier John Graham has been made an OBE.

Genevieve Irvine who lives just outside Enniskillen, and a member of Rossorry Parish Church, was awarded the BEM for founding the charity, SWELL (Supported We Live Life) and for services to people affected by cancer in County Fermanagh.

“It’s(the award) recognition for the charity and I do feel really honoured and thankful for the person who nominated me,”



She said. This latest award is another highlight of the year for Genevieve. She was awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee champion, invited to the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla in Westminster Abbey and during the King and Queen's visit to Enniskillen, she was invited to represent the charity at Enniskillen Castle.

This positive time in her life is in stark contrast to the dark days she suffered after she was diagnosed with a rare form

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of cervical cancer in 2015. It was after having to make long journeys to help with her rehabilitation that she chatted with a friend, who was also diagnosed, about setting up a support service locally. SWELL was born and their premises at Cross Street, Enniskillen is now a beacon for fellow cancer sufferers.

After just opening for a few years, the SWELL centre has now over 500 service users, availing of the many services available five days a week and during three late evenings.

The charity is open not only to those who have been diagnosed with cancer, but also members of their families and carers.

Genevieve is promoting the ethos of her charity by become an advocate for cancer sufferers She is part of a European wide patient advocacy programme and will be travelling to Istanbul in the autumn for a conference

She is very grateful for fundraising efforts for the charity, referring for example to the proceeds of Easter Tree donations in Rossorry Church organised by the Mothers' Union.

Genevieve and her husband Nigel have three sons, Warwick, Tully and Quillan.

Brigadier John Graham, one of the well-known members of St. Macartin's Cathedral choir in Enniskillen and also widely known in the community as Deputy Lieutenant for Fermanagh, has been made an OBE for services to military and public health.



Brigadier Graham is now living back home in his native Enniskillen with his wife, Heformidable career in military and public health. Following his education at Portora Royal School, he studied medicine at Queen's University and worked in the Royal Victoria Hospital's Casualty Department before serving as a doctor in three wars, the Falklands War and both Gulf Wars.

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His role in the Falklands War was to run part of the hospital on the SS Canberra. One of his roles was accompanying wounded Argentinian soldiers as they were returned to their native country.

It was while working on SS Canberra that Brigadier Graham met his future wife, Helen, then the ship's accountant. They married two years later.

After the first Gulf War he was the first doctor to enter Kuwait City where he coordinated the international humanitarian response and re-opened hospitals which had been closed during the occupation. He led the formation of research programmes both in the US and the UK to investigate Gulf veterans' health concerns which have produced thousands of papers on all aspects of post-conflict health.

He was the medical commander in the Second Gulf War, built the medical brigade which supported the 1st Armoured Division during the warfighting phase and then led the humanitarian response which ensured that the health sector was the only part of the Iraqi civilian infrastructure which did not collapse.

John was invited to join the Research Working Group set up by the White House to direct American research. He played a leading role in developing their programmes and formulating force health promotion policy. He was posted to the British Embassy in Washington DC for three years to promote collaboration between American and British politicians and policy makers.

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Returning to Germany he became chief executive of the British Forces Overseas health service which provided care for personnel and their families from Lisbon to Izmir and Stavanger to Naples.

He was awarded the Mitchiner Medal by the Royal College of Surgeons for having done most to promote military medicine and he was appointed Honorary Physician to HM The Queen. He is also an Honorary Steward of Westminster Abbey.

But Brigadier Graham continued to serve his community being elected Chairman of the Board of Brooke House Health and Wellbeing Centre at Colebrooke which provides care for military and police veterans who have suffered as a result of their service for others. He is also President and Honorary Secretary of the Old Portoran Union.

John and Helen have two daughters; Alice married to James in London and Sarah, Belfast.

Revd Niall Griffin

The death has taken place peacefully at Ardmaine Nursing Home of Revd Niall Griffin on Wednesday 12 July.

Reverend Niall, was the dearly beloved husband of Gerry, cherished father of Sean and Patrick and devoted grandfather of Jessica, Senja and Jack.



Niall was made deacon in 1961 and served a curacy in St Mark's Newtownards, (1961–1963). In 1964, after a short second curacy in St Mark's Armagh, Niall and Gerry left for Jamaica to serve with SPG in St Luke's, Kingston. They returned to Shankill Parish Lurgan in 1967 and in 1969 Niall became an RAF Chaplain, serving until 1984. Niall was engaged in full-time Renewal Work with the Ministry of Divine Healing at the Christian Renewal Centre, Rostrevor, until his retirement in 2010.

A celebration of Niall's life will take place on Sunday 16 July at 2.00pm in Kilbroney Church of Ireland Parish Church, Rostrevor.

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A private family committal will take place afterwards in Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if desired to MAOZ c/o Heaney Keenan Funeral Directors, 53 Patrick Street, Newry, BT35 8EB.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.
Psalm 116:15.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

