

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Lets go hydro

July 4, 2023

Image of the day



Lets go hydro

Magheracross Parish Youth Fellowship has a trip to the Let's Go Hydro last Saturday.

People and places

No Monday blues at City of Derry Airport

On Monday morning pilgrims from Derry Diocese left the City of Derry Airport bound for Lourdes.



July 4, 2023

The group from the Diocese is led by Bishop Donal McKeown and Charlie Glenn. Their travel arrangements are in the experienced and caring hands of Joe Walsh Tours Pilgrimages.

Eco Pilgrimage Evening at Nenagh

The Nenagh Parish Union Eco Congregation invites you to join a Pilgrimage Evening on Saturday 8th July led by Joc Sanders on the theme - “Giving attention to God's good creation”

6.30pm, meet at Killodiernan Church, Puckane, Nenagh, Co Tipp (E45 Y026).

Then a walk around the church and graveyard, exploring its history and experiencing the biodiversity of the unimproved limestone grassland.

7.00pm, drive to The Commons of Carney (52.980729, -8.190215) ~15 min

Walk through biodiverse calcareous fen and limestone pavement, reflecting on the natural history of this special site, a home to orchids and rare Irish endemic species.

~8.15pm, closing prayers and depart.

Dress for the weather on the day!

July 4, 2023

Remembering the Somme



The Annual Orange Service was held in Slavin Church on Sunday afternoon. The parade was led by Garrison Accordion Band who were wearing their new uniforms.

“The service was led by Rev Rebecca Guildea who said a prayer to bless the new uniforms. The lessons were read by Glenn Gregg and Aaron Ovens. The vote of thanks was given by Glenn Gregg.

“Rev Rebecca preached from Genesis on the account of God testing Abraham’s faith. She encouraged us to practice our faith in offering to God our time, our image, our comfort,



for his kingdom purpose, and to reach across the community with love”.

CHRIST SAYS
"GIVE ME ALL.
I DON'T WANT SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME
AND SO MUCH OF YOUR MONEY
AND SO MUCH OF YOUR WORK:
I WANT YOU."
—C.S. Lewis

Well-known member of GAA ordained

A well-known member of the GAA in Belfast has been ordained as a Catholic priest.

Fr Robert McMahon was elevated to the priesthood during a ceremony at St Peter's Cathedral in west Belfast on Sunday.

It was in the same church 71 years ago that his parents Sammy and Rita were married - a key reason why Fr McMahon chose the cathedral for his ordination.

A large number of clergy took part in the event, which was led by Bishop Michael Router, auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Armagh, who was performing his first ever ordination.

The ordination of Fr McMahon is the first of two due to take place in the Diocese of Down and Connor this year, with the second scheduled for next month.

A retired teacher with the Christian Brothers, Fr McMahon has a long association with Gort na Móna GAA club in the west of the city.

A former club treasurer, he is well-known as a handball coach and has mentored many players to national and international success.

He continues to participate in the sport himself.

July 4, 2023

Gort na Móna sits in Holy Trinity parish and former parish priest Fr Matt Wallace, who died suddenly in 2013 and was a "dear friend" of Fr McMahon, was remembered during his ordination.

Fr McMahon had served his placement in Ballymena and was a deacon in St Paul's parish. He was attached to St Malachy's last Christmas in preparation for his ordination.

Assistant Organist for Belfast Cathedral

Stephen Hamill will be joining the Music Department at Belfast Cathedral in September 2023, serving as the principal accompanist for all Cathedral services.

Stephen, a renowned and talented organist who has held various high-level musical positions in the Belfast area has featured on many broadcasts and recordings. The Cathedral states, "He will bring with him a vast wealth of experience that we look forward to hearing each



July 4, 2023

week, on an organ that he is already so very well acquainted with”.

Former Donegal Highland Radio presenter ordained

One of Ireland's most popular radio presenters has swapped a life behind the microphone for a life serving God.

Shaun Doherty was one of the country's top DJs thanks to his popular chatshow on Donegal's Highland Radio which aired for almost 30 years.

But the well-known broadcaster has just been ordained to the priesthood in Co Derry.

Shaun was officially ordained on Sunday by the Bishop of Derry, the Most Reverend Donal McKeown.

Six years ago Mr Doherty decided to embark on new projects and quit his job behind the microphone.

But even family and friends were left shocked when Shaun announced that he was studying to become a priest.

He was later ordained a Deacon at St Paul's Basilica in Rome in 2022 where he has continued his studies. At his ordination on Sunday at St Eugene's Cathedral in Derry city, Bishop McKeown warned the newly ordained Rev Doherty of the challenges ahead.



He said there is much healing to be done in the Irish church because so much power was abused in the past.

“By a life of prayer and generosity, of courage and honesty, you actually can be a fabulous advertisement for Jesus,” he told Rev Shaun.

Around the world, friends of Shaun’s joined together in prayer as he received the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Among the many poignant moments of the ceremony was Rev Shaun being vested by his cousin, Fr Daniel Doherty, who is based in Scotland.

Born in Stoke-on-Trent in England in 1964, Rev Doherty's late parents Mary and George were from Derry and Inishowen.

July 4, 2023

In a recent interview with The Net Diocesan newspaper, he said that Columba Community founder Fr Neal Carlin was hugely influential in his decision to follow the call to God.

The late Fr Carlin of Inishowen was also the founder of White Oaks Rehabilitation Centre.

Rev Shaun also said he wanted to help people who are suffering from addiction and those who have issues with anxiety, depression, and loneliness.

He said: "I look forward to being involved in the lives of people. I particularly feel that I would like to be with people on the margins. There are so many issues and problems today, so many feeling hopeless.

"Hopefully, my story will be a source of encouragement for people that there is always hope because of the goodness of God. His love and generosity is boundless and never ends."

News reports

C of E may revive power to defrock abusive priests

The Church of England is considering defrocking archbishops, bishops and priests found guilty of abuse or serious misconduct.

July 4, 2023

It has not had the power to depose an abusive priest from Holy Orders, known as defrocking, for 20 years. It was repealed in 2003 as part of a new law governing discipline of priests.

However, measures proposed in papers submitted to the General Synod, the Church's legislative body, which is meeting this week in York, would reinstate these powers.

They would be the Church's most serious penalty against its own clergy.

Currently, if a clergy member is accused or found guilty of misconduct or abuse, they are not stripped of Holy Orders – meaning that they retain their ecclesiastical status and can often retain the functions of ministry.

The defrocking penalty, or a deposition from Holy Orders, means they would be forced to live as a lay person.

However, victims and lawyers specialising in abuse have warned that the new measure “will just give more power to bishops”, because they “alone will be able to defrock clergy”.

The new proposal states that it “reintroduces a power for a bishop to depose a priest or deacon from Holy Orders, following a finding of misconduct”.

It says that once a tribunal has recommended that clergy be deposed, then the ritual will be carried out by a bishop.

July 4, 2023

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) made a recommendation in its 2020 report that the measure be reinstated after it found that the institution had harboured hundreds of paedophiles for decades.

A Church of England spokesman said: "The Church fully supported [the IICSA] recommendation, and its reintroduction is part of the legislation for the new Clergy Conduct Measure currently going through General Synod."

UK, Australia and Canada want reversal of Israel approval of new West Bank settlement units

Britain, Australia and Canada have called on Israel's government to reverse a decision to approve new settlement units in the West Bank, saying they are "deeply concerned" by an ongoing cycle of violence.

Last week, Israel approved over 5,700 new settlement units in the West Bank and earlier this month instituted changes to the settlement approval process which facilitate swifter approval of construction.

"The continued expansion of settlements is an obstacle to peace and negatively impacts efforts to achieve a negotiated two-state solution. We call on the Government of Israel to reverse these decisions," the foreign ministers of Britain, Australia and Canada said in a joint statement.

Violence has been surging in the West Bank, including deadly clashes in Jenin, a fatal shooting by Palestinians

July 4, 2023

near a Jewish settlement, attacks on Palestinian villages by rampaging settlers, and rare use of Israeli air power against militants.

In the media

Presbyterian witness beyond the boundaries in Ireland

The general assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church has affirmed the importance of church planting across Ireland, particularly in the Irish Republic, and approved a strategy that should sustain the denomination right across the island well into the future, Billy Kennedy writes in the Belfast News Letter

At its recent annual gathering, the assembly, the church's ruling body, also gave the green light to creating a new role – 'Mission Pioneer' – focusing on church planting, or strategic pioneering work across the 550 congregations in both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Presbyterian council for mission in Ireland convenor Rick Hill said that the council's church planting panel had worked hard to develop a strategy that can guide the denomination in its church planting efforts and offer help to individual congregations seeking to plant.

"Our desire is to fan into flame a vision for church planting. We can point to the need to open an overflow area in Kilkenny, church planting progress in Balbriggan,



encouragements in Sligo and Naas, the process of electing local elders in Galway and Corboy.

“We can also point to a significant property project to establish an inaugural church building in Maynooth, Co Kildare after almost two decades of meeting in rented space,” said Mr Hill.

“More generally, there have been new communicant members, the sustaining of stable witness in rural areas, congregations reaching migrants in grace-filled ways, and the fruitfulness of an Alpha Course in the church’s international meeting point, which led to more than two dozen baptisms in one congregation,” he added.

“This is the mixed economy of moving forward missionally, as a church in this cultural moment. Birth and death.

July 4, 2023

Renovation and innovation. Sustaining the old and pioneering the new...!"

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has a membership in excess of 200,000, 90 per cent of whom locate in Northern Ireland congregations. Church membership in the Republic totals approximately 13,000, mainly in Ulster border counties Monaghan, Cavan and Donegal..

Addressing the incoming Presbyterian moderator, Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney, minister of Adelaide Road Presbyterian church, Dublin and who has also served in two congregations in counties Cork and Tipperary, Mr Hill said: "You know more than most the reality of ministry in the Republic of Ireland and I know that close to your heart are the many villages, towns and even cities which lack a strong evangelical witness or Protestant reformed church presence.

"Church planting lies in the history and heart of Irish Presbyterianism. For each of our congregations to exist, they had to be planted, and today the need remains to spread our nets wide across this land. If we don't, we will simply go about the task of reallocating resources and managing decline in a way that gives us our day, but fails in our basic missionary calling."

Mr Hill pointed out that more than 80 towns of more than 10,000 people in the Irish Republic had been identified as having no significant Presbyterian witness.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



npi the national
parenting initiative

Event for Everyone!

12TH JULY 2023 | 12-1PM

ONLINE

National Parenting's Event for Everyone

Flourishing families webinar from National Parenting
Join this online 'Event for Everyone' on 12 July from 12 to
1pm. <https://cte.org.uk/flourishing-families-npi-webinar/>

With [#WhoLetTheDadsOut](#)
[@KidsMatteruk](#)
[@godconnected](#)
[@ConnectedLives1](#)

July 4, 2023

on ways to support and empower families in your community

St Columb's Cathedral
Londonderry

Lunchtime
Organ
Recitals

July 2023
Thursdays 1.10pm - 1.50pm

6th Jack Wilson
13th Stephen Hamill
20th Nicky Morton
27th Henry Koop

ADMISSION FREE

Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair Dhoire & Chathair an tSrátha Bhaín
Derry City & Strabane District Council

Sunday morning children' s ministry resources

Presbyterian Church's Children's adviser comments - "Many people ask me regularly about Sunday morning children's ministry and resources that are available to use or that I would recommend. Over the summer I am going to highlight

July 4, 2023

here some resources that could be used, tell a bit about them and how they might be rated.

“Before starting that I want to remind you of a resource that our Council produced a few years ago to help your Session and children's ministry teams to work through some of the big questions about how your children's ministry might be structured, why you do it and how you can make it better.”

Details of that resource can be found at the link below:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/Congregational-Life/Youth-and-Children/Sunday-Morning-Children-s-Ministry.aspx>



Get ready to be inspired! Meet Emma Rahman from the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, who shared her views and perspectives as a central committee steward

July 4, 2023

during WCC Central Committee 2023 in Geneva. Watch all videos here <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=>

Fight Climate Change appeal

The Church of South India is responding to climate change through their innovative Climate Resilient Schools and Communities programme. Support and find out more <https://climateappeal.uspg.org.uk>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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