

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Summer Madness

Image of the day



Summer Madness

Summer Madness held at Portglenone earlier this week was its customary success. Throughout this issue of CNI is a number of photographs which attempt to give the flavour of this popular encounter.

People and places

Upcoming Sea Sunday service in Dublin port

Each year seafarers and their families are remembered on the second Sunday of July, which is known worldwide as Sea Sunday.

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This coming Sunday, July 9, the Seafarers Centre on Alexandra Road in Dublin Port (D01KT32) will be open to welcome all visitors from 1pm to 5pm. A short service will take place at 4pm which will be conducted by the Honorary Port Chaplain, Revd Willie Black.

For the past few years, due to COVID, Sea Sunday events have been very much restricted as also was seafarers visiting Seafarers' Centres worldwide.

While the number of seafarers visiting the Seafarers' Centre in Dublin Port is still below pre-Covid times, slowly it is increasing.



Summer Madness - St Michael and St Stephen, Belfast

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Normally at this time of the year the centre is very busy with cruise ships visiting Dublin Port. However, this year, Dublin Port Company has diverted cruise ships to anchor off Dun Laoghaire. A small number of cruise ships dock at the East Link Bridge.

All are welcome to join staff, volunteers and seafarers at the centre this Sunday and to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. On street parking available outside the centre, and visitors are advised that they can ignore the double yellow lines.

Mission to Seafarers Ireland are in need of volunteers at the centre so feel free to chat to them if you would like more information.

Mayo walk for Irish emigrants in London

A special 18km walk, dedicated to fundraising and increasing awareness of the plight of Irish emigrants in London, will take place in Co Mayo on this Saturday, 8 July.

Funds raised will go to support the Seniors Project of the Irish Chaplaincy in London.

Bishop Paul Dempsey of Achonry, chairman of the Council for Emigrants of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, will join the walk that will cover the course of a section of the former railway track in Co Mayo, from Mulranny to Newport, along the breathtakingly picturesque Greenway overlooking the west coast of Ireland.

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Bishop Dempsey said, “Our awareness raising walk is an opportunity to remember so many Irish who left many years ago but also those who have had to leave in more recent times for various reasons. It will be an opportunity to remember them and keep them in prayer. All are welcome to join us on our scenic pilgrimage in support of our elderly compatriots living in Britain.”

The chief executive of the Irish Chaplaincy in London, Mr Eddie Gilmore, the organiser of the walk, said, “as we have done in recent years, we will be walking again from Mulranny to Newport in Mayo along the Greenway to raise funds for the Seniors Project of the Irish Chaplaincy, and to raise awareness of the older Irish we support in Britain,



Summer Madness - worship

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whether living alone or in care homes or in prison. All are welcome to join us on 8 July and our meeting point is in Mulranny at 10.30am. This is an open invitation to follow along the path taken by so many Irish emigrants in the past as they departed their homeland, and in many cases never to return. We would be most grateful for donations on the day or you can contact me at [\[eddie.gilmore@irishchaplaincy.org.uk\]](mailto:eddie.gilmore@irishchaplaincy.org.uk).”

Appointment of next Union Theological College Principal

Union Theological College has announced the appointment of Rev Prof Michael McClenahan as the next College Principal.

The 2023 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, meeting in Belfast from 21st to 24th June, appointed Prof McClenahan to serve for a period of three years. He will take up the duties of principalship on 1st September, when the current Principal, Rev Prof Gordon Campbell, steps down from the post.

Looking back on his time as Principal, Prof Campbell highlights the journey that the College has been on.

“I have found serving Union in this role to be exciting and exhausting, in roughly equal measure! In just a few years, our College has come quite far, and rather fast, along a new and challenging road. For many years we delivered Theology up to PhD-level for Queen’s University, while training ministerial students for service in the Presbyterian



Rev Prof Michael McClenahan the next College Principal

Church as our core activity. Since 2019, ministerial students, serving ministers and many others besides have been preparing for Gospel ministry or other outcomes even as Union has been evolving, before their eyes, into a small specialist University in its own right, awarding our own postgraduate degrees in Theology and Divinity, under our Royal Charter.

“While teaching out courses to remaining QUB students – the last of whom graduates this summer – we have been welcoming school-leavers once more, since Sept. 2022, through our new BA in Theology, developed with a new collaborative partner: St. Mary’s University, Twickenham. In addition, other higher-education partnerships are enriching our postgraduate taught and, especially, our postgraduate

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research degrees, as world-leading researchers who meet our stringent criteria bring their expertise to bear in teaching or in helping supervise cutting-edge doctoral projects. In all of this, Union now enjoys a global reach to its ministry and mission and the College has its own independent public credentials, documented by our external examiners' reports and scrutinised by the national Quality Assurance Agency."

With the prospect of serving as Principal from this autumn, Prof McClenahan underlines the privilege of working with a great team of committed staff at Union:

'I'm grateful to our current Principal for his dedication to the college over many years and particularly during his time as



Summer Madness - leaders were told it would be a dawdle

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Principal. Union is a wonderful place to work and an exciting place to study. I'm really looking forward to working with an amazing group of professional and academic staff who show every day their love for Union and the students who study with us. In this time of great need and challenge in the global arena of theological education I am looking forward to leading this next chapter of Union's long history and all for the glory of God.'

Choir of Trinity College, Melbourne sings in St Ann's Church, Dublin today

St Ann's welcomes the Choir of Trinity College, University of Melbourne, today and this occasion marks a special historical relationship St Ann's has with Trinity College, Melbourne through G.W. Torrance.

Torrance is a former organist at St Ann's who received the first DMus awarded at Trinity College and whose memorial is found in the Chapel of Trinity College.

The Choir of Trinity College is primarily involved in the singing of services in the College Chapel. Evensong is sung every Sunday during term time, with the exception of two Sundays a year, when the Choir sings a Choral Eucharist.

The Choir has collaborated with various orchestras, instrumental ensembles and conductors, including performances of JS Bach's St Matthew Passion with Jeremy Summerly in 2011, the St John Passion with Stephen Layton in 2012 and Handel's Messiah in 2016. In 2018 the Choir performed the role of the semi-chorus in Edward



Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius' with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Sir Andrew Davis, and released the latest in a long line of CD recordings, a disc of Carols.

The Choir has undertaken nine international tours, most recently to the USA and Canada at the start of 2020. Over the past ten years the Choir has also visited Germany, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Baltic States, Russia, the UK, France and Spain.

Trinity College is particularly interested in championing new music by Australian composers. Recent performances include works by Alice Chance, Richard Mills, Daniel Riley, Brett Dean, Lachlan McDonald, Joseph Twist, Calvin Bowman, Nigel Westlake and Brooke Shelley. In 2019 the Choir released a new recording including a Mass by Ross Edwards and new commissions from Alice Chance and Daniel Riley and gave the first performance of A New Commandment by Brooke Shelley. 2020 saw the release of

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Walking on Waves, a collection of Australian and American compositions and arrangements of folk songs and art songs.

The Choir is comprised of students studying a wide range of subjects, many of whom are residents at Trinity College, but with others drawn from other Universities in Melbourne.

Work to commence on long-awaited Westport school building



Trinity NS Principal Orla Brickenden (left) with students at a demonstration in Westport

Work is to commence to refurbish a Westport school that has been crying out for a new school building for several years.

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Phase 1 design works, including drilling of test holes, ground surveying and sampling, are to begin on the Trinity NS's new school building, which will be located at the site of Scoil Pádraig on Altamount Street.

Eoin Holmes, a member of the Trinity NS board of management, told The Mayo News that machinery would be on site at the Altamount Street site this week.

This follows a long-running saga which involved a proposal to co-locate the school with the Educate Together school on the site of the derelict Scoil Pádraig.



Engagement at Summer Madness

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However, the proposal was abandoned after vocal opposition.

The existing school building is 231 years old and is one of the oldest schools in the country. Report by Oisín McGovern in Mayo Live 04/07/2023

Cars broken into during remembrance service for Covid-19 pandemic

Callous thieves targeted Church-goers as they attended a ceremony on Saturday evening last.

A number of vehicles were broken into outside the Church of Ireland Church in Tulough.

A service to remember those who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic was underway when the criminals struck. Western People report 03/07/2023

Divine Healing Ministries Day of Prayer at St. Patrick's, Ballymacarrett

Join with DHM at any time between 10am - 2pm this Saturday 8th July at St. Patrick's, Ballymacarrett as they pray for healing and revival across the land.

DHM say, "There will be times of worship, quiet listening to the Lord and focus scriptures and prayer led by Br David Jardine, David "Packie" Hamilton, Rev. Jim Rea, Rev. Colin

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Duncan, Rev. John Cunningham and Rosamund Weissman from the Jewish Christian community.

“We will begin by carrying a cross along the Newtownards Road from the top of Bryson Street to St. Patrick's Ballymacarrett at 9.45am as a prayer walk for healing and revival.”

News reports

Review into former Causeway Vineyard leader alleges 'patterns' of 'spiritual abuse'

Vineyard UK and the leadership of Causeway Coast Vineyard Church (CCV) have apologised after releasing preliminary findings into complaints relating to a former leader, Christian Today reports.

The review was commissioned in February 2023 in response to complaints about pastor Alan Scott and is being carried out by Trusted HR Ltd.

Trusted HR said it had "identified themes and repeated patterns of behaviour including examples of manipulation, inappropriate comments, narcissistic behaviour, and certain occurrences of public shaming and spiritual abuse".

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"The allegations primarily relate to Alan Scott and have been put to him, but he did not respond," a joint statement by CCV and Vineyard UK said.

"In light of the initial findings, the National Directors and trustees of VCUKI, and the trustees, Senior Pastors and the senior leadership team of CCV acknowledge that wrong and hurtful conduct has occurred at CCV, and apologise to all those who were hurt, harmed, mistreated or in any way negatively impacted by their time at Causeway Coast Vineyard.

"The trustees of CCV acknowledge that they are responsible for the governance and oversight of CCV. They accept that they failed to spot some of the warning signs and did not have sufficient structures in place to ensure complaints came to the attention of trustees, and they apologise to those who have been hurt."

Scott now pastors Dwelling Place church in California. Dwelling Place used to be Vineyard Anaheim and was Vineyard USA's flagship church before Scott took the controversial step of disassociating it from the denomination in 2022.

The review will continue until the end of this month and a summary report with recommendations is due to be published four months later.

The statement by CCV and Vineyard UK added, "We are sorry that as a church we have not always acted well and been all that Jesus called us to be.

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"We recognise the need to acknowledge the past and be transparent about what we got wrong.

"We hope that this interim statement and apology will, belatedly and in a small way, allow some to begin to move forward in their journey of healing and wholeness."

Anyone with safeguarding concerns relating to the review can contact Vineyard Churches UK & Ireland at ccv.report@vcuki.org.uk or by calling 01482 462690.

Report courtesy of Christian Today 06/07/2023

Minister for Education confirms Archdiocese of Dublin engaged in good faith about changes in patronage of primary schools

Statement by Archdiocese of Dublin - In response to certain comments made under parliamentary privilege in Dáil Éireann recently [29/6/23] concerning the reconfiguration of patronage of primary schools, the Archdiocese of Dublin wishes to confirm that it, along with several other dioceses in the State, engaged in a spirit of partnership with a Department of Education pilot reconfiguration process.

In Dublin, this involved substantial engagement with 29 school communities to explore the option of leaving Catholic patronage for alternative multi-denominational patronage. The process was led by an independent facilitator,

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appointed by the Department of Education. The process was entered into in good faith by both the Archdiocese and the Department. As in other dioceses, Archbishop Farrell, as the local diocesan patron, engaged fully with the process, providing the independent facilitators with every aid and assistance requested of him.

Ms Norma Foley TD, Minister for Education, yesterday (29/06/23) confirmed in the Dáil the informed view of her Department as to the full cooperation of the Catholic patrons in their participation in the process. Archbishop Farrell notes and confirms the Minister's reassurance that the pilot is



The Hub at Queen's - C of I and Methodist chaplaincy at Summer Madness

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being studied to understand how the process may evolve and inform future engagement with school communities. The Catholic patrons and their representatives are actively working with the Department on this review.

For some, the reconfiguration process can only be judged a success if school communities conform to the demands of others outside of their communities for change. Their tangible impatience with the pace of evolution in education is evident, and it is not uncommon for people engaged with a change process to be impatient when progress is slow. This impatience can often become a desire to impose desired outcomes, regardless of local views. The Catholic patrons, as bishops and pastors, are not minded to simply impose solutions onto communities. Minister Foley and her Department are of the same view. Reconfiguration is not an abstract issue, but one that is rooted in the concrete realities



The Bunch from the Hub at Summer Madness

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of the lives of people and their communities, and is a process of consensus building.

This pilot process was intended to provide opportunity for both Church and State to learn, and then to create, a viable path to secure reconfiguration on a greater scale in a sensitive, efficient and effective manner. Its effectiveness is contingent on the quality of cooperation between the two. Archbishop Farrell confirms his and the other Catholic patrons' determination to continue to work in good faith with the State to secure the common educational good of our society.

UK climate finance u-turn would be "shameful betrayal" says Christian Aid

Responding to the reports that the UK Government is not going to meet its climate finance pledge, Sophie Powell, Christian Aid's Chief of UK Advocacy, said:

"This is a desperately short-sighted and shameful betrayal of those facing the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Breaking our long-held promises and tearing up years of agreed climate diplomacy are the actions of a reckless Government.

"Climate finance is not a handout, but a debt we owe to vulnerable countries for the damage we have caused through burning fossil fuels. It is not aid and should never have come from the aid budget in the first place.

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"A UK government that wants to be taken seriously by global South countries, which is essential to keeping global climate talks on track, will need to rebuild the country's climate credibility by mobilising additional public finance to meet our international climate obligations, whilst accelerating the journey to net zero at home. Taxing polluters would be the best place to start."

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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