

# Church News Ireland

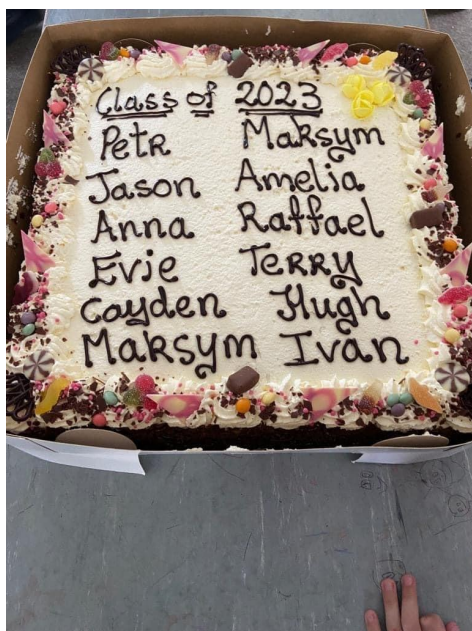


**Image of the day**

**Graduation Day  
for 6th Class  
pupils in Tralee  
and Dingle  
parishes**

June 23, 2023

## Image of the day



## Graduation Day for 6th Class pupils in Tralee and Dingle parishes

Huge congratulations to them all. Wish them the very best as they begin the next chapter in their education.

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# People and places

## Food and fond farewell for North Belfast Clergy

On Tuesday (20th June), the North Belfast Clergy Chapter met for its annual dinner, and to say a fond farewell to the Rev'd Ruth Patterson, who will very shortly move on from the Church of the Good Shepherd in Monkstown to become the Minister of the Methodist Church in Ballymena. "We have loved ministering alongside



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Ruth in the rural deanery, and we pray God's richest blessing upon her as she serves him in pastures new.”

Gathered at the annual dinner were: Rev'd Andrew Irwin (St Paul & St Barnabas), Rev'd Louise Bowes (Mossley), Rev'd Ron Elsdon, Rev'd Brian Lacey (St Peter & St James), Rev'd Isy Hawthorne-Steele (Greenisland), Rev'd Canon William Taggart (St Katharine), Rev'd Tim Close (Cloughfern), Rev'd Peter Jones (Mossley), Rev'd Anne Locke (Whitehouse & St Ninian), Rev'd Ruth Patterson (Monkstown), Rev'd Andy Heber (Carnmoney), Rev'd Janice Elsdon, and Rev'd Canon Nigel Baylor (Jordanstown).

## **Craft fair in Ballymena tomorrow**

**A Craft Fair will take place this Saturday, June 24 at St Patrick's Church on Castle Street.**

The Fair will take place from 11am to 3pm and will include local crafters, afternoon tea, inflatables and raffle prizes.

There is a £3 entry fee with free admission for under 12s.

## **Church of Ireland Primate expresses support for World Refugee Day**

**The Church of Ireland's Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop John McDowell, added his support for World Refugee Day, 2023.**

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Archbishop McDowell stated: “It is very appropriate that the theme for this year’s World Refugee Day is ‘hope away from

“In offering our welcome, we give our new neighbours here the opportunity to share hope through how they contribute



*St Nicholas men’s group from Carrickfergus Parish had a great time on Wednesday night at The Whitehead Railway Museum.*

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their sense of community, skills and insight into our society today. The Church of Ireland, alongside others, can trace its spiritual roots back to one migrant who brought with him the hope of Jesus Christ and left a legacy which positively shaped the story of this land and Europe through the following centuries.

He added: “Listening to the voices of all with mutual respect for the dignity of the individual should be the beginning for all our conversations. As communities across Ireland face daily pressures from housing shortages and the slow erosion of living standards, there is room for everyone to be part of making progress in meeting those challenges.

Committed service, respectful listening, and the fair and consistent delivery of service by all who lead in government and the private sector, can help to make Ireland a better place of welcome and potential for each person who calls our island their home.”

This follows on from the General Synod’s support for countering hatred against refugees and other migrants and for communicating a strong message of Christian welcome to all.

The Church of Ireland General Synod, its governing body, approved the following resolution in support of refugees and other migrants during its May 2023 meeting in Wexford:

‘That the General Synod acknowledges the impact of anti-refugee and migrant hatred in our communities and requests the Honorary Secretaries to write to Diocesan Councils on behalf of the Primate’s Ethnic Diversity,

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Inclusion and Racial Justice Reference Group seeking suggestions regarding ways in which the Church can counter the language of anti-refugee and migrant hatred at the local level and communicate a strong message of Christian welcome to all.'

## Political stalemate needs to end for the good of everyone - Bishop of Connor



*Bishop George Davison delivers his Presidential Address.*

**Bishop George Davison in his Presidential Address to Connor Diocesan Synod yesterday said “people across Northern Irish society are suffering” and we “must be urging our political representatives, of whatever party,**

**to knuckle down, take the difficult decisions and make political progress for the good of us all.”**

And speaking to around 250 clergy and lay members of the diocese, Bishop George called for an end to the stalemate in Stormont.

“The continued political vacuum in Northern Ireland, the absence of meaningful government in this province, is having real and profound effects on our health service, on our schools, on our economy,” Bishop George stated.

**“The result of that is that people across Northern Irish society are suffering. Like many others, I know people who cannot get timely medical attention; whose children are missing out on educational opportunities; and families who are simply struggling to make ends meet.”**

The Bishop continued: “I’m thankful for the practical ways in which Christian people in Connor Diocese seek to help in these situations – through the likes of Baby Basics ministries, support for local food banks and parishes which provide spaces for people to find warmth and a friendly face.

“But we also must be urging our political representatives, of whatever party, to knuckle down, take the difficult decisions and make political progress for the good of us all.”

He added: “I do not envy politicians their jobs and I believe that we should be encouraging them with our prayers rather than criticising or pulling them down, but we do need say





clearly that this stalemate needs to end for the good of everyone.”

## **King said Belfast Cathedral service had been ‘just perfect!’**

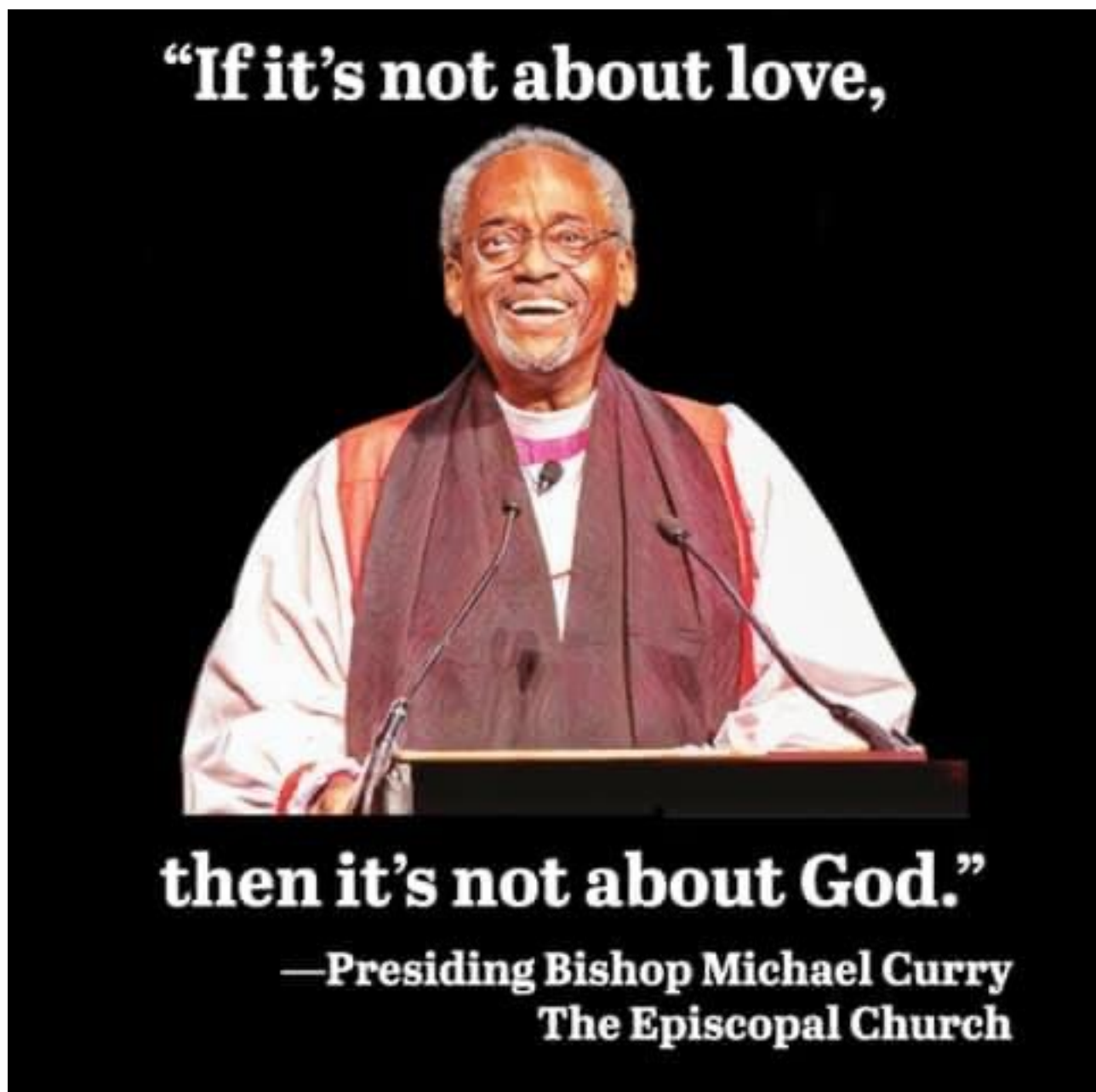
**The Bishop of Connor paid tribute to the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde for the ‘meticulous planning’ he had done in preparation the Service of Reflection for our late Queen last September.**

Bishop George Davison in his Presidential Address to the Connor Diocesan Synod yesterday said, “It is tribute to his preparations, and to the hard work of Trevor Douglas and all the Cathedral staff, ably aided by Canon Kevin Graham and members of the Cathedral community, that Belfast

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Cathedral provided such a fitting setting for the Northern Irish service of commemoration of Her Late Majesty,” Bishop George said.

“I think that we can be immensely proud of the role played by many members of our diocese on this solemn, but important occasion in our national life. The ultimate compliment came from the lips of our new King as he left the cathedral at the end of the service and told me, that it had been ‘just perfect!’



## News reports



### Dean of Chapel of St George, Windsor Castle

**The King has approved the appointment of the Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry to the Deanery of The King’s Free Chapel of St George, Windsor Castle.**

He will succeed the Right Reverend David Conner, following his retirement in August 2023.

Speaking of his appointment, Bishop Christopher said that although it will not be easy to move on from the diocese he has served for 15 years, he is “honoured” to take over Bishop Connor’s ministry.

## Former Anglican bishop in Wales joins the Catholic Church



### **Right Revd Richard Pain is to be received in the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.**

The Right Revd Richard Pain, a former Bishop of Monmouth, will be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church within the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, on Sunday 2 July at St Basil & St Gwladys, Rogerstone Newport.

He will be received by The Rt Revd Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Monsignor Newton said: 'We are delighted that after much prayer Richard has asked to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. He will be the first

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bishop from the Anglican Church in Wales to be received into the Ordinariate since its creation in 2011. Richard has a long and distinguished ministry in the Church in Wales. He has many gifts which he will continue to use to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Wales’.

Commenting on his forthcoming reception, Richard expressed joy at this next step of his Christian journey. ‘Having retired from episcopal ministry three years ago, I have had time to reflect on the retiree’s perennial question- what next? The process of discernment continues throughout life and is constantly shaped by context but more importantly by the whisper of God’s voice. The Benedictine understanding of obedience – hearing the Lord- has been significant to my personal formation. The call to conversion which follows has led me to becoming a convert to the Catholic Church through the Ordinariate. I have much to be grateful for the experience gained over a lifetime as an Anglican. Yet the call to Catholicism seems natural and spiritual at the same time. To start afresh will be a welcome challenge and I come – as we all do – as a learner and a disciple.

The Ordinariate, through the vision of Pope Benedict, provides a generous pathway to walk a pilgrim way and I ask for your prayers.’ Richard Pain was born in London in 1956. He went to Bristol University where he studied English Literature and then received his second degree in Theology at University of Wales, Cardiff whilst training for the Anglican ministry. Richard was ordained a priest in the Church in Wales at Newport Cathedral in 1986. He has served all his ministry in the Diocese of Monmouth, working in the valleys as well as in the heart of Monmouthshire. He served as

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Vicar of Monmouth, then as Archdeacon of Monmouth and was elected Bishop of Monmouth in 2013. Richard spent many years in the discernment and training of clergy. He was lead Bishop for ministry in the Church in Wales and was chair of the St Padarn's Institute at its formation in 2016.

Richard retired as Bishop of Monmouth in 2019. He has been married to Juliet for over forty years and they have two sons. Richard enjoys photography and the classical guitar. The Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham is a structure similar to a diocese, inaugurated under the late Pope Benedict XVI to allow former Anglicans to enter the full communion of the Catholic Church whilst retaining some elements of the Anglican tradition that nurtured its members. It has its own Eucharistic liturgy which preserves some elements of the Book of Common Prayer.

## Music

### **Relax and enjoy night of classical music with South Ulster Sinfonia in Armagh**

**A night of live, classical music is coming to Armagh this month as The South Ulster Sinfonia holds its annual summer concert.**

The community-based group is made up of around 40 members, aged from 18-83, who meet not just to keep their musical skills in tune but also to have a bit of fun and craic.

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The concert will take place on Saturday, June 24 at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, starting at 7.30pm.

The programme will include Hadyn's Surprise Symphony & Trumpet Concerto, John Williams' Jurassic Park and an arrangement by Michael Russ of Irish reel Garrai Eóin, to name just a few.

The performance will be conducted by Philip Walton, a member of the Ulster Orchestra, and led by Fionnuala Toman. The soloists will be Jan Faulkner, Michael Russ and Catherine Holland.

The South Ulster Sinfonia was formed around 20 years ago.

Having started off with around a dozen string musicians, it expanded to cover woodwind, percussion and brass sections.

Many of its members played for the SELB Music Service, and found they had nowhere to pursue their love of music after leaving school.

While some could do so through the South Ulster Concert Band, there was no such equivalent for stringed instruments, and Sinfonia was launched to fill that void.

One of its members, Lois Bennett, the group's only oboist and a teacher at St Patrick's PS in Armagh, said:

"Everybody gets on so well. We have a lot of fun and we like to get out into the community – we have played at Rushmere Shopping Centre and Bow Street Mall, and we perform with schools and other musical groups as well."



## Clare Chorale at Sentry Hill

**Join an unforgettable musical experience by The Clare Chorale, a renowned mixed-voice choir from Ballyclare.**

At Sentry Hill, Newtownabbey on Sunday 25 June, from 2.30pm to 4pm

This talented group of 50 members, hailing from various professions, will perform in the breath-taking surroundings of Sentry Hill's lawns and flower beds (weather permitting)

Be prepared to be serenaded with a captivating blend of sacred and secular, popular, entertaining, and inspiring music from The Clare Chorale's extensive repertoire.



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Pack your picnic baskets, cosy rugs, and chairs, and an enchanting afternoon of wonderful music! And since we're in Northern Ireland, don't forget to tuck a little umbrella into your picnic bag, just in case!

## Free Lunchtime Concert at Fisherwick

When: Wednesday 28th June at 1pm

Where: Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Belfast

A purple rectangular poster with white text. At the top, 'Lunchtime Concert' is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, 'CONCORDIA CHAMBER CHOIR' and 'WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE AT 1PM' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. On the left side, there is a white circle with a purple border containing the word 'Free!' in a purple, cursive font.

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF **FRIENDS ACROSS BORDERS**



*Friends Across Borders seeks to reach out to asylum seekers and refugees who are living close to Fisherwick. They meet on Monday mornings during term time to teach English and offer practical support and help where needed.*

**There will be an opportunity to contribute to this work at the end of the concert should you wish to do so.**

Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, 2 Chlorine Gardens, Belfast, BT9 5DJ • [fisherwick.org](http://fisherwick.org)

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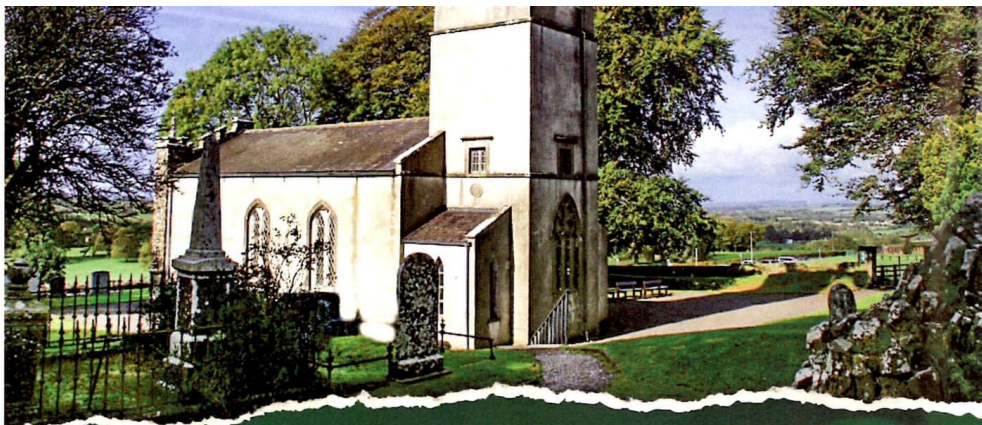
Featuring the recently formed choral group, Concordia. Concordia is a group of eight experienced singers who have performed on Radio Ulster and are looking forward to supporting this worthwhile charity event.

Soprano: Ciara Agnew, Bronagh Rafferty

Alto: Rita Goldsmith, Nuala Murray

Tenor: Eugene O'Hagan, Martin O'Hagan

Bass: David Delargy, Peter Donaldson



**TARA SERVICE**

Dioceses of Meath and Kildare

Hill of Tara, County Meath

**ANNUAL OPEN AIR SERVICE**

**Prayers will be included for Pets, Animals  
and our Care for Creation**

on

**Sunday 25th June, 2023 at 4.00pm**

*Preacher: The Revd Canon Alastair Graham - Rector, Mullingar Union of Parishes*

**Lighten our Darkness and God's Gardens of Hope & Blessing of Pets**

**All are invited to bring their pets**

*Music by: The Trim Brass Band*

Bring Picnics (and food & water for your pets!) – Hopefully the weather will be warm and sunny!

*Contact: The Revd Canon John Clarke (046) 9021172 Email: [navanunion@gmail.com](mailto:navanunion@gmail.com)*

**All Welcome**

*Please encourage all age-groups, family members, neighbours and friends to attend and use this opportunity to worship God together in the "out-of-doors". This year, we offer thanks for our pets and seek God's blessing on them. Please come along and make this a good day out in the delightful setting around the grounds of Saint Patrick's Church, Hill of Tara.*

**TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE  
TRANSFORMING LIVES**



**MEATH &  
KILDARE**  
DIOCESES

12 | ASPIRE JUNE 23

## Masterworks Choir from South Carolina at St Patrick's

On a first-time tour to Ireland in celebration of 40 years of musical excellence, the Masterworks Choir of Florence, South Carolina will be performing at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin next Tue 27th at 1pm. They are one of the most prestigious choral ensembles in their state, known for their choral artistry and performing a historically diverse repertoire of both new and traditional music. Make sure to book your 1pm slot today on the Cathedral's web site.

## Perspective

### Jennifer Gault, MCI Formation student to visit UMC Poland

**Jennifer, a Formation student in the Methodist Church in Ireland, on her upcoming visit to the United Methodist Church in Poland from June 24 to July 4. Jennifer currently serves on the Cookstown and South Derry Circuit.**

My name is Jennifer Gault and I'm a formation student for ordained ministry with MCI. I'm from Limavady, currently serving in the Cookstown and South Derry circuit in the NW District. Later this month, I'll be spending some time with the Polish Methodist church, experiencing what ministry and mission looks like for them.

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The visit to Poland is part of my training to be a minister. UMC Poland is linked to MCI's North Western District, so it seemed very appropriate to use my summer placement as a way to build links and learn from each other, as well as to compare challenges, vision and opportunities as brothers and sisters in the global Methodist church.



I'll be staying in Kielce, shadowing Pastor Damian Szczepańczyk. I'm interested in finding out how his church has embraced mission to refugees from their neighbouring country Ukraine, as well as breaking down barriers and taking the church outside the walls into what is a predominantly Catholic country. Having a pastoral heart and background in community (first in nursing, then Pioneer mission) I'm especially excited about engaging in the community and meeting people.

I'm grateful for this opportunity and looking forward to seeing what doors God opens with it. I have never had the chance to do anything like this before; I'm excited, but also a little apprehensive about leaving my family at home. I take

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comfort from Proverbs 3:5-6, which says in The Message translation:

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own.

Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

Please pray for:  
Safe travels.

Building relationships with the ministry team in Kielce and wider Methodist church in Poland.

Opportunities to engage with the community and assist with mission in the city.

My family, as they manage at home without mum for 10 days!

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

