

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Belfast Royal Academy Camino

June 30, 2023

Image of the day



Belfast Royal Academy Camino

**Mission
accomplished!**

After an arduous
pilgrimage of
135km across





gorgeous, sun-baked northern Spain, the BRA 'peregrinos' arrived in the beautiful city of Burgos.

Blood, sweat and blisters could not dampen the determination and resolve to get across the finish line at Santa Maria Cathedral.

Character, resilience and team spirit personified!

BRA was once a close neighbour of Belfast Cathedral as Academy Street still bears witness.



People and places



More artists than ever in Charles Wood Festival

There are more artists than ever taking part in the 30th Charles Wood Festival this year.

From star composers John Rutter and Bob Chilcott, to local choirs The Priory Singers, The Lowry Singers, Armagh City Choir, Portadown Ladies Choir, Portadown Male Voice Choir, Gaudeamus Choir, Lisburn Harmony, renowned organist Isabelle Demers, and broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio Ulster, there's something for everyone. Do join the CW Festival in Armagh this August.

bit.ly/3XFUQMh



No rest for the ringers

While most of the parish groups at St Mark's Dundela are taking a break over the summer, their tower bell team continues. If you'd like to find out more about the role of the team, please email the office at office.dundela@down.anglican.org.

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St. Mary's Church
Art Exhibition

In aid of Parish Development

Saturday
8th
July 2023
11am - 6pm

Sunday
9th
July 2023
11.45am - 5pm

Sponsored by
Dickson Bearings & Transmissions Ltd.

St. Mary's Art Exhibition & Sale
8th - 9th July 2023

17 Renowned Artists,
Over 130 Stunning Paintings
Complimentary Entry
St. Mary's Parish Centre, Howth.

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Taoiseach joins Castleknock NS for 300th Anniversary celebrations



Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister Jack Chambers, Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Colin McConaghie with the staff of Castleknock National School.

It's not every day that the Taoiseach turns up to celebrate the 303rd birthday of your school. But for pupils of Castleknock National School in Dublin that's exactly what happened this morning (Wednesday June 28) when Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Minister Jack Chambers joined them on their last day of the school year.

The festivities were actually to mark the 300th anniversary of the school but the big day was postponed by Covid. Rain threatened to throw another spanner in the works but the quick thinking team swung into action and the party was moved indoors.



Taoiseach Leo Varadkar cuts the ribbon on Castleknock NS's new Hub.

Apart from honouring the three century milestone, the Taoiseach also cut the ribbon on the school's new resource area, called The Hub. The room had been a computer room but the computers had become outdated and the school set about redecorating and repurposing it. The Hub is now a flexible area with a library, ipads, space for their STEM activities and some sensory activities.

Among the special guests welcomed to the school were Archbishop Michael Jackson who said a prayer of



School principal Sandra Moloney introduces the special guests.

dedication, the trustees, members of the board of management and members of the parents' association.

Proceedings got underway with a welcome from school principal Sandra Moloney and the Rector the Revd Colin McConaghie followed by a rousing rendition of the school's anthem which is sung to the tune of the European Union anthem.

Noting that the school was established in 1720, the Taoiseach said that it was older than the State. Looking back at events in the year 1720 he said that there had been a stock market crash (again), there was a war in Europe,

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there was a plague in France, mustard was invented and Castleknock National School was established.

He said that it would have been a very different time when most children did not go to school and people only lived until about their 30s.

He told the students that they were the future, not just of their school or community but of the country and he urged them to use their time in school to explore their talents.

“Like Minister Chambers I trained to become a doctor and to be a GP. Then I entered politics, firstly as a councillor and later as a TD and now I am lucky enough to be Taoiseach.

“Lots of us have different jobs in our working lives so don't feel that you have to commit to one thing now. We all have different talents and school is a brilliant time to try things out. Try everything and give it your best,” he said before paying tribute to all the staff of Castleknock NS for their commitment and dedication.

Archbishop Jackson observed that the 300th birthday of the school was a historic occasion and marked the continuous education of children from the area for three centuries. He congratulated everyone involved in the school community.

The Taoiseach cut a special celebratory cake before cutting the ribbon on The Hub. An ice cream van arrived to send the pupils off on their summer holidays happily.

*Aghanloo, Balteagh, Carrick and
Tamlaghtard invite you to a*

PARISH FUN DAY AT THE RECTORY

(115 Drumsum Road, Limavady, BT49 0PD)

Saturday 8th July 2023 from 2 to 5pm



The Swingtime Starlets

**Wartime Living
Memory Association**



Highland Dancers



**Rev. Canon
David McBeth MBE**

**Queen Elizabeth II Pipe Band,
Castledawson**



**Bouncy
Castles for the
kids, cakes,
competitions
etc**

Proceedings opened by the Lord and deputy lord Lts for the county

Mr. Kenny Archer & LOTS MORE.....





News reports

World-famous children's book by Lisburn author inspires new public art and literature trail

A much-loved children's book by a local author is the inspiration behind a new interactive public art and literature trail which opened in Lisburn on Tuesday.

Author and lifelong Lisburn resident, Sam McBratney wrote the international bestseller *Guess How Much I Love You* in 1994. It tells the story of Big Nutbrown Hare and Little Nutbrown Hare, who are trying to measure their feelings for each other. At last, Big Nutbrown Hare declares that he loves Little Nutbrown Hare 'to the moon - and back'. This iconic phrase originated from Sam McBratney and is known the world over.



The heart-warming bedtime story went on to sell more than 55 million copies worldwide and has been translated into 57 languages.

Sam McBratney died in 2020 and the following year, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council secured funding to create a public art and literature trail based on the children's classic to help celebrate his legacy.

Thanks to £132,000 in funding from Tourism NI, the Guess How Much I Love You-themed trail is free for the public to enjoy and can be accessed via a digital app or followed on a map collected from the local visitors' centre in Lisburn. One version of the trail is suitable for 'little hares' and another for older children – but kids of all ages can develop their observational and navigational skills on this journey of discovery. They will collect 16 brass rubbings along the

way: together they make up iconic imagery featured in the book.

In addition to the interactive element of the project, a series of public artworks has been commissioned to help bring the book to life. A 4 foot high bronze sculpture of two hares, created by sculptor Trudy Burke will grace Castle Gardens. Dotted across the trails are wooden Nutbrown Hares and three hand carved benches by artists Charlie Haag, Matthew Crabbe and James Elliott which feature scenes inspired by Guess How Much I Love You.

The author's widow, Maralyn McBratney, is confident Sam would have been both humbled and delighted by this new attraction in the city. She said: "When we were on book tours, it didn't matter where we were in the world – he was always happy to return to his home town, Lisburn.

"Our family is very proud to see the installation of the Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare trails across the city centre. We were really moved to see street art of the book's illustrations in Haslem's Lane earlier in the year. Anita Jeram did the beautiful drawings and it's so lovely to see them provide pleasure to shoppers and passers-by. And it was an honour to see a 'Guess'-themed Children's Art Festival in the city too.

"Sam started writing as a student. His first published work was a series of articles on the history of Lisburn and he had many books published over the years, some based on family anecdotes and others springing purely from his imagination. The success of Guess How Much I Love You was a pleasant surprise for all of us and the book holds a



Pictured at the bronze sculpture of the two Nutbrown Hares from Guess How Much I Love You are: (l-r) Sarah McBratney; Councillor Thomas Beckett, Communities & Wellbeing Chairman; Mayor Councillor Andrew Gowan; Councillor Tim Mitchell, Vice-Chair of Regeneration and Growth Committee; David Burns, Chief Executive Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Maralyn McBratney.

special place in our hearts. It opened up new opportunities for Sam and at the same time gave parents, carers and teachers a book they could read to children to help express feelings and emotion. Local schoolchildren from Cairnshill Primary, Friends' Prep, Meadowbridge Primary, Pond Park, the Atlas Centre and Harmony Hill Primary attended the official launch today. The children enjoyed following the Little Nutbrown Hare trail.

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Councillor Thomas Beckett, Chair of the council's Communities & Wellbeing Committee added: "The trail brings the messages and images of this much-loved children's book to Lisburn City Centre and at the same time pays tribute to the great achievements of its author, the late Sam McBratney.

"We look forward to residents and visitors of all ages and nationalities enjoying this new tourist attraction that highlights the significant contribution Sam made to children's lives worldwide."

Ciaran Doherty, Head of Regions at Tourism NI, said: "Tourism NI is delighted to partner with LCCC in developing the Sam McBratney trail to encourage visitors to the region, learning about the culture and creating a connection to the place in a fun and imaginative way.

"It adds to the experiences on offer, not just in Lisburn, but Northern Ireland as a whole and is well aligned to the values of our Embrace a Giant Spirit brand," he said.

In the media

Eid al-Adha: Thousands of Muslims pray together in Belfast

BBC News

Thousands of people from Northern Ireland's Muslim community have gathered in Belfast to celebrate Eid al-Adha. One of the most important festivals in the Muslim calendar, Eid al-Adha is marked by special prayers and

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feasts. The festival commemorates the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son on God's orders.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66035439>

Unmarried mothers' repatriations: 'I should never have been in Ireland'

BBC News

Maria Cahill explores the trauma of her early life in poetry. She was six weeks old when her mother Philomena was repatriated from Britain to Ireland.

Maria was born in London - a British citizen - yet was also sent to one of Ireland's secretive mother-and-baby homes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-66031767>

Evangelicals in the Church of England are running out of options

Christian Today

The latest attempt by the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) to hold up the launch in November of services of blessing for same-sex couples has little chance of becoming reality.

That tactic was tried in February and failed...

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/evangelicals.in.the.church.of.England.are.running.out.of.options/140407.htm>

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**Webinars,
music,
resources,
broadcasts,
and books**



The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Nominations for the 2024 King's Award for Voluntary Service are now open!

This is a brilliant opportunity to nominate a local voluntary group that you feel makes a huge difference in our local community. Applications will close 15th September 2023.

You can submit a nomination via the link below ↓

<https://kavs.dcms.gov.uk/make-a-nomination/about-nominating/>

Applications will close 15th September 2023.

CIYD Website Launch

The Church of Ireland Youth Department has a brand new website. It is a space for leaders to find up to date news, training information, resources and more.

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[https://www.facebook.com/474829761344038/posts/648619197298426?
utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook](https://www.facebook.com/474829761344038/posts/648619197298426?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook)

Living out the Marks of Mission

Video series shares stories from Video Series Shares
Stories from Living out the Marks of Mission

<http://dlvr.it/SrMBhV>

Seagoe Youth Group Youth Work Coordinator



Seagoe Youth Group seeks to appoint Youth Work Coordinator. The person appointed will have responsibility for the development of the Group's youth work programme in line with Education Authority priorities (80% of post), and the development youth work within Seagoe Parish (20% of post).

Job descriptions and application forms are available by emailing office@seagoeyouthgroup.co.uk

The closing date for applications is **12th July 2023** at noon. Interviews will be held on 14th July 2023.

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
