

# Church News Ireland



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October 17, 2024

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## Image of the day

### Cork West Africa initiative

Front page photo -The Bishop of Cork, the Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton, and Christian Aid Ireland's Head of Fundraising and Supporter Engagement, Ruth Cooke, launching the Cork Diocesan Appeal for Sierra Leone at the Cork Diocesan Synod recently. Credit: Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross/Denise Stobart.

**Cork's kindness to reach West Africa: The Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross has launched an appeal for funds to support a Christian Aid Ireland project which helps dispossessed farmers living in poverty in Sierra Leone.**

The appeal, which aims to raise €30,000 (currently equivalent to £25,000) over two years, was launched by the Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton at the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Synod, held at Bandon Grammar School on Saturday, 5th October.

The Bishop of Cork, the Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton, and Christian Aid Ireland's Head of Fundraising and Supporter Engagement, Ruth Cooke, launching the Cork Diocesan Appeal for Sierra Leone at the Cork Diocesan Synod recently. Credit: Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross/Denise Stobart.

The money raised will support the work of Christian Aid's local partner, the Sierra Leone Council of Churches, which



Hawa Sannoh left her farm in the south of Sierra Leone following the arrival of the Socfin palm oil plantation. The Cork Diocesan Appeal will help more families like Hawa's to make a living and provide for their families. Credit: Chris Nelson.

is helping families rebuild their lives and find new sources of income after being displaced from their farmland following the arrival of a huge palm oil plantation.

It's estimated that as many as 400 people in Pujehun District in the south of Sierra Leone abandoned their farmland because of the impact of the plantation. Funds raised by the parishioners of Cork diocese will enable more than 200 families displaced or impacted by the plantation to develop new sources of income. The cash will pay for basic farming tools (hoes, pick-axes and watering cans) as well as rice and cassava stems, enabling people to grow food to

feed themselves and their families and surplus to sell for an income.

One of those now receiving help is Hawa Sannoh. Hawa has joined a savings and loan scheme which has given her cash to establish a business and to pay for essentials during family emergencies. Hawa explains: “I left my home because the chief took my father’s farm. His land was sold without his consent. He used to have lots of land where he would grow palm oil, fruit and vegetables. He was left with nothing.”

Between 2019 and 2021, the diocese raised thousands of euros for Christian Aid’s work in Burundi. To support that fundraising effort, Carrigaline clergyman the Revd Tony Murphy visited each of the 22 parishes in Cork diocese to receive donations, walking with parishioners for 5km at each location. Mr Murphy plans to visit each parish again in support of the Sierra Leone appeal.

Bishop Paul said: “The United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross have a long tradition of engaging with the needs in society and in the world beyond our shores. Recently we completed our partnership with Burundi to support maize cooperatives there. This year, we were looking for a new project and we are delighted to enter into partnership again with Christian Aid and the Bishops’ Appeal (the Church of Ireland’s World Development Fund). The project this time is in Sierra Leone and we have given it the name Liloma, meaning ‘hope’ in one of the local languages there. We are delighted to make this new commitment of ‘Partnership in Hope with Sierra Leone’ for the coming years.”

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Ruth Cooke, Christian Aid Ireland’s Head of Fundraising and Supporter Engagement, attended the Cork Diocesan Synod to help launch the new appeal. Ruth said: “We are grateful to the Bishop of Cork, the clergy and parishioners for choosing to support our work in Sierra Leone. The good people of Cork diocese have shown remarkable generosity in responding to the need in Burundi, and we trust they will respond once more to the plight of people in Sierra Leone.”

Church of Ireland Bishops’ Appeal Education Advisor Hilary McClay said: “The Bishops’ Appeal is so pleased to see the start of this initiative to raise funds for Sierra Leone, for which we will act as conduit. We congratulate all those involved for their generosity and hard work.”

## News

### Confirmation at Carryduff



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**Congratulations to the 5 young people confirmed on Sunday evening in St Ignatius Carryduff, one of whom was also baptised.**

Please pray for all those being confirmed this year.

## **Creation Care Network meets at Knock Methodist Church Centre**



**Juanita Majury writes - I enjoyed the "Creation Care Network" meeting on 28th September in Knock Methodist Church Centre.**

There were representatives from several parts of Belfast, Hillsborough and Ballymena. Maureen Rowan, Methodist

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Church Rep on Eco Congregation Ireland, came from Dublin to make the meeting extra special as she presented Knock Methodist Church with their Awareness Certificate from Eco Congregation Ireland.

It was great to see recognition for the hard work John Stothers and the team are putting in while implementing the Methodist Church in Ireland Environmental Policy.

The meeting began with a thoughtful reflection from John, followed by a series of updates from those present on the ways Creation Care is being integrated into worship and everyday practices, from introducing recycling in church venues, to establishing wildflower gardens, erecting poly-tunnels and planting trees.

Edwin Graham from the NI Inter-Faith Forum outlined how the Baha'i Community have endeavoured to make their newly renovated "The Hub" premises sustainable for the future, sharing a Baha'i quote, "The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct."





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Maureen then gave us an overview of the work of Eco-Congregations stressing that awareness is the first step, with faith communities working together across denominations and even interfaith dialogue. said, "Sustainable for the future—our actions today shape tomorrow."

These meetings take place twice a year, the next one will be in March, possibly in Ballymena.



## Spanish artists visit for St Killian's College

Finishing off the most amazing trip to Madrid by visiting the Reina Sophia museum where the greatest

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**collections of 20th-century Spanish artists, Picasso, Dalí are housed.**

St Killian's College is situated on the north Antrim coast in the Diocese of Down and Connor.



## **Women's Aid supported at Craig's, Dunaghy and Killagan Harvest**

**At Killagan “we celebrated our harvest service. The church was decorated so beautifully and it was lovely to see so many of our own congregation out as well as guests and visitors.**

“We had the pleasure of welcoming Josephine from Women's Aid to speak with us, to tell us about the charity and all the great work they do for women all over the country. Instead of fruit this year our congregation presented



baby items for Women's Aid to use for people in need. A huge thank you goes to everyone for their kind generosity.”

## Cathedral Calls

### Music at St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast

**“We are absolutely delighted to announce that Fr Eugene O'Hagan will be joining our choirs to sing for Fauré's Requiem”.**

Save the date! St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast. 7PM Friday  
22nd November



# Fauré's Requiem

OP. 48

Sung by  
the Cathedral Choirs,  
with special guest  
Fr Eugene O'Hagan

Friday 22nd November 7PM St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast

This is a non-ticketed event. Donations towards our Music Department are very welcome at the end of the performance.

## **HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, to welcome St. Davids Cathedral**

**Over the weekend of 26th & 27th October we are very much looking forward to welcoming the Vicars Choral and Organists of St. Davids Cathedral/Eglwys Gadeiriol**



**Tyddewi, along with their Canon Precentor for a weekend of worship and fellowship at the Chapel Royal.**

**SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER**

**1630**

Choral Evensong in Cymraeg/Welsh and English/Saesneg. This is possibly a first for the Chapel Royal, and all are warmly invited to join us.



**SUNDAY 27th  
OCTOBER**

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1100 & 1530

The Vicars Choral of St. Davids join the Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal to sing our services.

ALL ARE WELCOME/CROESO I BAWB

## Ripon Bible Exhibitions

**View the Ripon Bible Exhibitions in the cathedral. They are on throughout October so do come and visit!**

📖 The Ripon Bible and the Cathedral's rare book collection.

📖 Contemporary illuminated manuscripts created by children from schools across the area.



*The Investiture of*  
**Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe**

**Saturday, November 2**  
**9:30a (EST) - "Roll Call" of Dioceses**  
**11a (EST) - Holy Eucharist**

**Livestream now - Investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect**

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**The livestream event for the Investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe is now live.**

<https://facebook.com/events/s/the-investiture-of-presiding-b/847463837550487/>

## Clergy and ministry



## Library of books presented to the C of I Theological Institute

**Canon Dr Will Murphy (centre), formerly Diocesan Director of Ordinands in Church of Ireland Diocese of Connor and facilitator of the foundation course at CITI,**

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**has donated his entire library of books to the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.**

In order to express a public thanks, Will and his family were invited to CITI for a reception which followed the Community Eucharist on Wednesday.

More at website here: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/10/11/library-donation-to-benefit-generations>

## **Vocations - KANDLE is Calling!**

**Bishop Denis Nulty has announced a new Lay Pastoral Minister Training Programme in the Diocese.**



“Great to meet with the Programme Board for our KANDLEi Pastoral Ministry Programme, which will be based in Mount StAnnes with Information Evenings in November, more details on <http://kandle.ie> or on parish newsletters @CatholicNewsIRL @StPatsMaynooth @eimeardeschemer

See next page and -

[<https://fb.watch/vcJchXAf4p/>](<https://fb.watch/vcJchXAf4p/>)

**A wonderful celebration of ‘Youth Ministry’** in @g\_kparish with Mass at 6pm when 14 young people were commissioned to take a more active involvement in a parish where close to 250 young people of all ages are already involved @KANDLEi @CatholicNewsIRL





**Are you being called?**

**LAY PASTORAL MINISTERS**  
*(Diploma in Pastoral Ministry, Level 7)*

The Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin is delighted to present our Lay Pastoral Ministry programme, developed in partnership with Mount Saint Anne's Conference & Retreat Centre & accredited by St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth. This comprehensive training initiative aims to equip Lay Leaders with the essential skills required to serve as Lay Pastoral Ministers within Parishes & Pastoral areas.

**To find out more please attend one of the information evenings being held throughout the Diocese**  
**All meetings start at 7.30pm, with Tea & Coffee from 7.15pm**

- 📍 Monday 4th November, Mount Wolesley, Tullow
- 📍 Tuesday 5th November, Westgrove Hotel, Clane
- 📍 Wednesday 6th November, Solas Bhríde, Kildare Town
- 📍 Thursday 7th November, Dolmen Hotel, Carlow
- 📍 Wednesday 13th November, Parish Centre, Leighlinbridge
- 📍 Thursday 14th November, Mt. St. Annes, Killenard

**For further details please contact**  
**Patrick Roche, Director of Parish Development**  
**[www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)**

☎ **086 830 5681**  
✉ **[parishdevelopment@kandle.ie](mailto:parishdevelopment@kandle.ie)**

## In the media

### 'It's a little bit of Lourdes in Belfast' - Belfast Telegraph

**St Bernadette's relics arrive in city for first time to queues of parishioners, Jessica Rice reports.**

Queues of parishioners gathered outside St Mary's Church on Chapel Lane in Belfast to see the relics of St Bernadette as they arrived in the city for the first time.

The sacred relics of Bernadette, who became a saint in 1933, arrived in the Republic of Ireland on September 4 and are now touring all 26 dioceses across the island until November 5.

Saint Bernadette is said to have witnessed the Blessed Mother in Lourdes and it is claimed the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous, in Lourdes, France, in 1858.

Born at foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains in 1844, Bernadette died in 1879 and was canonised by Pope Pius XI in 1933.

Bernadette's body was exhumed on April 18 1925 for her beatification and was found to be uncorrupted.

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It was then decided to place it in the chapel of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers where it is usually on display.

The relics were opened to the public in Belfast from noon but queues started to form shortly after 9.30 yesterday morning.

Jeannette McClarnon was among those queuing to see the relic with her daughter Jenny and her grandson Arlo.

She felt it was important for them to visit the relics as a family, adding: "It's a little bit of Lourdes in Belfast."

"I know we have Knock and things, but it doesn't have that connection to St Bernadette, this does," she added.

The family came from Randalstown to see the relics and were pleased to see how many people had turned out to St Mary's.

"This is a once in a lifetime thing for some people, there are some people who want to visit Lourdes but can't because they are sick so this is a great opportunity for them," Jeanette said.

She believes the huge crowds outside St Mary's show the strength of the Catholic community's faith.

"People are living in hope that today will make a wee bit of a difference in their lives. I think people will make the journey," she said.

Mary Kelly from Templepatrick travelled to Belfast and described a very personal and spiritual connection to St Bernadette, having always been eager to visit the relics.

“I always prayed to St Bernadette since I was a little girl in school, I had a picture of her up in my bedroom and I chose her for my Confirmation name, so I always had that connection to her.

“Even as I got older I would have prayed to her. A couple of years ago I was sick and I had a picture of St Bernadette beside my bed in the hospital and it stayed there for the seven months I was in hospital,” she said.

Mary said she wasn't surprised by the crowds of people that had turned out at St Mary's.

“Catholics here have a strong faith and we never lost that, even with everything during the Troubles, we never lost that,” she said.

Eilish McKee travelled from Magherafelt to Belfast to visit the relics.

“I have got the free bus pass and I had nothing else to do so I thought: 'Why not?'," she joked.

Eilish has previously seen the relics in Lourdes but didn't want to miss an opportunity to see them again.

“This is the first time they have been in Ireland so I thought I would touch base just to strength the faith,” she said.

Eilish said she was pleased to see so many people waiting to see the relics.

“I wasn't really expecting a queue but I knew there would be a lot of people here. We just have that strong sense of faith here, people are here to strengthen that faith,” she said.

Mary McCaffrey was excited to visit the relics with granddaughter, Ciara and great granddaughter, Clodagh.

Mary regularly visits Lourdes so she was excited for her family to see some of the most well-known relics.

“I've been to Lourdes a lot of times. I'd prefer it to a sun holiday, everywhere I go I take my Lourdes (Rosary) beads with me,” she said.

Mary feels the relics are a great way for parishioners to show their love for St Bernadette.

“It's such a lovely story of Lourdes. I've been to the place where Bernadette lived with her parents, it's nice to see the story being brought to here,” she said.

Tommy McCormack from Belfast said he hopes visiting the relic can strengthen his faith.

“I wouldn't have the strongest of faith but I would come into St Mary's on my own sometimes and light a candle and I'm hoping that being here today can just strengthen the faith a wee bit,” he said.

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Tommy was impressed to see so many different people visiting the relic.

“You have so many people here, you have all different cultures and ages from older ones to wee children in prams and it's great to see the big interest,” he said.



## **Derry Diocese thank you**

The relics of St Bernadette have been safely passed on to the Diocese of Down & Connor after a very special visit to St Eugene's Cathedral, Diocese of Derry over Sunday, 13th and Monday, 14th October.

A huge thanks and credit are due to the team and volunteers in the Cathedral parish and the Catechetical



Centre. Thank you all volunteers who helped with the preparations and the stewards who help manage and welcome the huge crowds. Thank you to all representatives from the parishes, schools, volunteer organisations who were part of the Welcoming Ceremony. Thanks to the many visitors who came from far and wide to venerate the relics and celebrate the ceremonies.

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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)

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