

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Holiday in Cecil Francis Alexander's  
old rectory**

October 19, 2024

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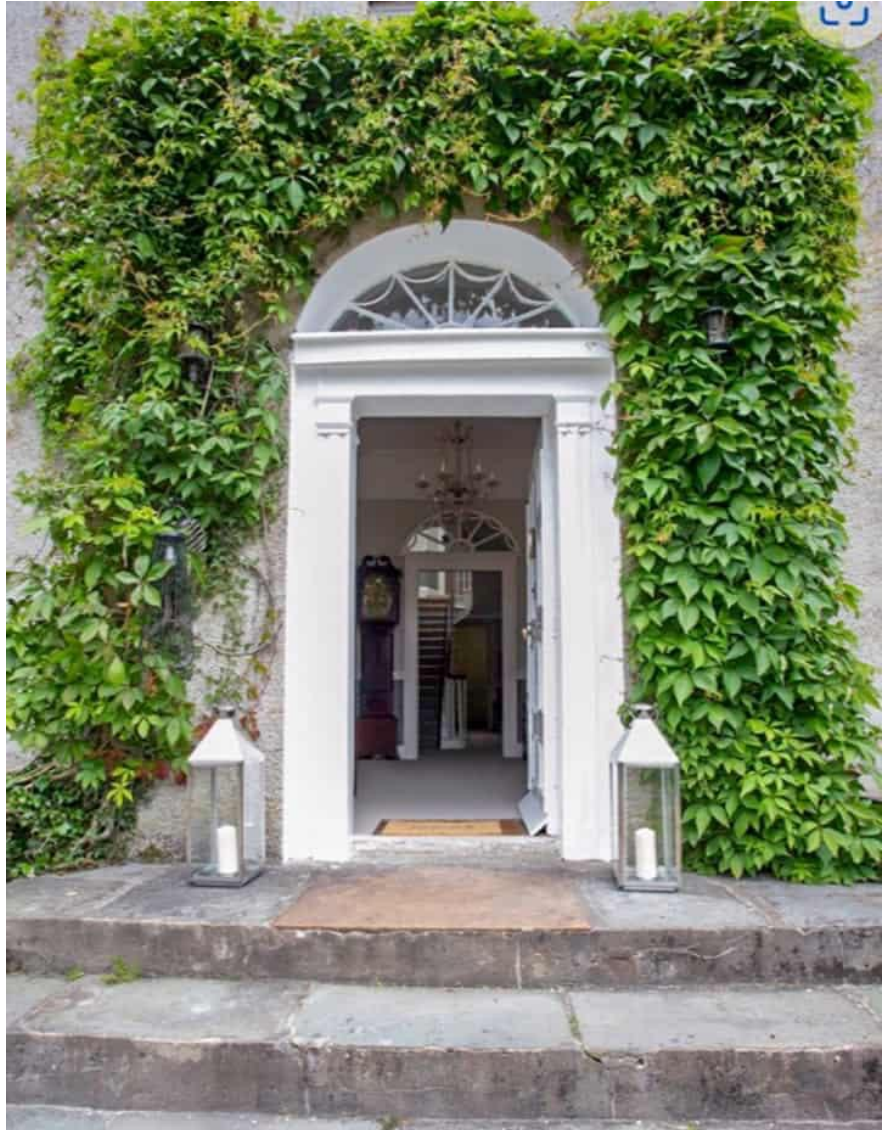
The Autumn by Elizabeth Barrett Browne



# Image of the day

## Holiday in Cecil Francis Alexander's old rectory

This wonderful restored Georgian country house offers the perfect retreat for a quiet, luxurious weekend or a weekly family holiday creating





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## special memories.

The house is over 200 years old and steeped in history with the hymn writer/poet Cecil Frances Alexander living at the house in the late 19th century. Step through the classic entrance door to 'The Old Rectory' and discover this beautiful Georgian home.

<https://donegalaccommodation.net/holiday-home/old-rectory-fahan/>

## News



## Carrickfergus support for food bank

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**The local food bank posted - A huge thank you to St. Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus for this amazing harvest donation delivered to us.**



## **Those Coleraine hats**

**Jackie Elliott went to the Coleraine Chronicle archive exhibition at the Town Hall this week and found this photo of St Patrick's Church Sunday School taken on Children's Day in 1968.**

“I'm 2nd from right on the front row. Those hats!” she remarked.

## **Jewish people in Ireland feel “under siege”- Simon Coveney TD**

**Simon Coveney TD, the former Irish foreign affairs minister, has said Jewish people in Ireland feel “under siege” and criticised the lack of balance in the debate over the war in the Middle East.**

Coveney is one of a number of Fine Gael TDs, including John Paul Phelan and Bernard Durkan, who have raised concerns about the treatment of Israelis and Jewish people living in Ireland amid the worsening conflict in the Middle East

Phelan told the Fine Gael parliamentary party on Wednesday it was not acceptable that an October 7 memorial last Monday in the Orthodox synagogue in Terenure, Dublin, took place in secret over fears about anti-Israel protesters.

Durkan is understood to have raised concerns about antisemitism in Ireland and Europe at the same meeting

## **Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters annual guest recital**

**The Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters; the Society had its annual guest recital and dinner recently.**

Their guest soloist this year was Margaret Phillips, who put the organ of St Philip and St James, Holywood Parish





Pictured are Margaret, Edwin Gray (organist of Hollywood Parish Church) and Matthew Owen, President of the Society.

Church through its paces in front of a large audience. Music in this wonderful concert included Bach, Ralph Vaughan Williams (on his 152nd birthday), Stanford, Dubois, and Philip Wilby.

The dinner afterwards was a splendid occasion which included a lovely after dinner speech by Father Eugene O'Hagan of The Priests.



# Newman and More for Queen's Chaplaincy

The Chaplain at Queen's University Catholic Chaplaincy said, "It was great to check in with sculptor Eamonn Higgins to see the progress he is making on our art commissions.



"John Henry Newman and Thomas More will have pride of place in our renewed Chaplaincy".



# Cathedral Calls

## Limerick Diocesan School Service

**The Limerick Diocesan School Service was held at Saint Mary's Cathedral on Thursday 17th October.**

The guest speaker was Ms Rachael Murphy, the Church of

Ireland's Officer for Ministry with Children and Families, who talked to the children about prayer and the story of The Good Samaritan, as depicted in the cathedral's beautiful stained glass window. A big thanks to The Very Revd Niall







JW Sloane for hosting the service and to Mr Peter Barley the organist.

The collection on the day was in aid of The Children's Grief Centre. Our thanks to everyone who travelled from all eleven of the diocese's national schools and to all our teachers for

looking after our school children so well.

## **Christian Aid input at harvest service at St Carthage's Cathedral - Lismore.**

**On Sunday, Christian Aid Ireland's Church and Community Officer, Andrew Coleman (right) travelled to County Waterford to speak at a special harvest service at St Carthage's Cathedral - Lismore.**



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Andrew told the story of Nyarai Zirugo (pictured) who lives in Zimbabwe where a harsh drought is causing crops to fail and livestock to die.



Nyarai received training from Christian Aid's local partner which enabled her to grow drought-resistant crops. She also learned how to harvest wild plants which she sells for an income. The training has given Nyarai hope for the future. She said: "We never realised these wild fruits and nuts were so valuable. We were living hand-to-mouth before but now the community has been empowered through knowledge." A collection taken up after the service will go towards this year's Harvest Appeal.



Pictured L-R are: Dean Paul Draper; Christian Aid representative Maureen Doherty; and diocesan reader Claire Forde. We're grateful

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to all of them and to the whole cathedral community for their hospitality and generosity.



## Relic of St. Bernadette at St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry

**A most beautiful photo taken early on Monday morning.**

The Relic of St. Bernadette in the centre aisle of St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry.

Photo by Tony Monaghan Photography





## Cathedrals Pray for Peace



Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024

6.30pm

Join



St Christopher's Cathedral, Bahrain

St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia

In person or on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85384200417?pwd=rVkJt4FNdDhJVd01vbzautMpav3UIR.1>



## Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf Zoom Service for Peace on Sunday

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Amidst escalating conflict in the region of our Province, the Cathedrals of the Diocese will be holding a Zoom Service for Peace on Sunday 20 October at 1830 (Cyprus/Bahrain). Please visit <https://www.cypgulf.org/cathedrals-zoom-service-for-peace/> for Order of Service, including Zoom link.

The service will begin from St Christopher's Cathedral, Bahrain, led by the Very Reverend Richard Fermer, continuing after the Magnificat from St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia, led by the Very Reverend Jeremy Crocker.

For Order of Service, including Zoom link please visit <https://www.cypgulf.org/cathedrals-zoom-service-for-peace/>

The service will be recorded, to be posted on the Diocesan YouTube channel @cyprusandthegulf

## Clergy and ministry

### **Afresh // last chance to book**

**Thursday 24 October 2024. 7.45-9.15pm  
Assembly Buildings, Belfast (In person). Livestream options available**

Through a mix of Scripture, interview and prayer, the Afresh evening will encourage the taking of opportunities to exercise the gift of eldership in the ordinary moments of church life we share together with others, as well as doing





so in a posture of prayerfulness that is a glad reminder of our dependence on God.

To find out more about the event and to book - [www.presbyterianireland.org/Afresh](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/Afresh)

## **Dublin and Glendalough Pioneer Project: Local Church, Crumlin**

**The first Church of Ireland Pioneer Ministry project in Dublin and Glendalough is taking shape.**

The Pioneer Ministry team launched a new video in which you can find out about Shane Maguire and the ministry he is running as a partnership between St Catherine's (which is a trustee church on Thomas Street, Dublin) and St Mary's in Crumlin to plant a new congregation in Crumlin.

Watch the video here:

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Since the launch of Pioneer Ministry in the Church of Ireland in February 2023, a huge amount has been happening as they spread the vision and values of pioneer ministry and build the necessary infrastructure to get pioneers going and projects off the ground in different contexts. The Pioneer Ministry team will be working with the new pioneers and their accompanying pioneer ministries to train and support them as they develop their projects and they are looking forward to sharing all of these stories in new videos over the next few months.

To find out more, you can download the Pioneer Ministry Guidebook [here](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6369200641c15512a6080631/t/6564bcf6b55b095b9a66ebba/1701100791103/Pioneer+Ministry+Guide+Book.pdf).

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6369200641c15512a6080631/t/6564bcf6b55b095b9a66ebba/1701100791103/Pioneer+Ministry+Guide+Book.pdf>

For more info, you can also email at [info@pioneerministry.org](mailto:info@pioneerministry.org)

Find out more about St. Catherine's Thomas St.: [www.saintcatherines.ie/localchurch](http://www.saintcatherines.ie/localchurch)

Find out more about St. Mary's Crumlin: [www.dublin.anglican.org/parishes/crumlin-and-chapelizod](http://www.dublin.anglican.org/parishes/crumlin-and-chapelizod)

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

**Limerick Lunchtime concerts**





Founded 1168  
**SAINT MARY'S**  
**CATHEDRAL**  
LIMERICK

## Lunchtime Concerts Autumn 2024, 1.15pm

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Catherine O'Carroll (soprano) and Irina Dernova (piano)

*Music by Faure, Vaughan Williams, Sanderson and John Ireland*

### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Students on the MA in Classical String Performance (UL)

*Music by Haydn, Schubert, Janacek, Dohnanyi, Bowen and Mozart*

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

Kirsten Corbett (violin) and Peter Barley (piano)

*Music includes Cesar Franck's Sonata for violin and piano (1886)*

### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Celia Donoghue (clarinet) and Ethna Tinney (piano)

*Music by Saint-Saens, Messager and Debussy*

For details on all of the musical events held in Saint Mary's Cathedral please log onto [www.saintmaryscathedral.ie](http://www.saintmaryscathedral.ie)

*Admission to the concerts is free (with a retiring collection)*



## Perspective

‘Prove all things; hold fast that which is good’ (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

## In the media



## **Ex-church director appears in court over £500k fraud allegations - Belfast Telegraph**

**The former director of a church has appeared in court accused of fraud, Paul Higgins reports.**

Godfrey Ellis is accused of defrauding more than half a million pounds from Shankill Parish Church in Co Armagh.

Standing in the dock of Craigavon Magistrates Court, the 54-year-old confirmed he was aware of the four charges against him and that he did not object to his case being returned to the Crown Court.

Ellis, from Clanconnell Gardens in Waringstown, faces three charges of defrauding the Trustees of Shankill Parish Church in Lurgan by abusing the position of trust he had. He also faces a further count of forgery.

All offences are alleged to have been committed between July 26 2011 and February 9 2020.

None of the alleged background facts were opened in court but the particulars of the offences disclose that Ellis allegedly:

Transferred £643,637 from the church's bank account to his own;

Used £102,313 of parish funds to pay his credit cards;

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Misrepresented the church's bank balance, claiming it was "£30,482 in credit when in fact the account was £38,847 in overdraft".

Another relates to forgery of a cheque.

A lawyer for the Public Prosecution Service submitted that the legal statements and papers formed the basis of a prima facie case.

A defence solicitor conceded that Ellis had a case to answer, a sentiment echoed by District Judge Michael Ranaghan.

Standing in the dock but looking to his solicitor for guidance, Ellis declined to exercise his rights to either call evidence on his own behalf or to comment on the charges.

Applying for legal aid, the solicitor revealed that while Ellis works, "his business is likely to be significantly impacted, if not lost."

Freeing Ellis on £500 bail and ordering him to appear at Craigavon Crown Court for arraignment on November 22, Judge Ranaghan said he would grant legal aid given the seriousness of the charges.

## Poem for today

### The Autumn

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning



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Go, sit upon the lofty hill,  
And turn your eyes around,  
Where waving woods and waters wild  
Do hymn an autumn sound.  
The summer sun is faint on them --  
The summer flowers depart --  
Sit still -- as all transform'd to stone,  
Except your musing heart.

How there you sat in summer-time,  
May yet be in your mind;  
And how you heard the green woods sing  
Beneath the freshening wind.  
Though the same wind now blows around,  
You would its blast recall;  
For every breath that stirs the trees,  
Doth cause a leaf to fall.

Oh! like that wind, is all the mirth  
That flesh and dust impart:  
We cannot bear its visitings,  
When change is on the heart.  
Gay words and jests may make us smile,  
When Sorrow is asleep;  
But other things must make us smile,  
When Sorrow bids us weep!

The dearest hands that clasp our hands, --  
Their presence may be o'er;  
The dearest voice that meets our ear,  
That tone may come no more!  
Youth fades; and then, the joys of youth,  
Which once refresh'd our mind,

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Shall come -- as, on those sighing woods,  
The chilling autumn wind.

Hear not the wind -- view not the woods;  
Look out o'er vale and hill-  
In spring, the sky encircled them --  
The sky is round them still.  
Come autumn's scathe -- come winter's cold --  
Come change -- and human fate!  
Whatever prospect Heaven doth bound,  
Can ne'er be desolate.

## 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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# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

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