

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Top Tripadvisor award for  
St Anne's Shandon**

## Image of the day

### Top Tripadvisor award for St Anne's Shandon

**St. Anne's Church Shandon in Cork, a parish church in the Church of Ireland, has been recognized as a 2024 Travellers's Choice Award winner by Tripadvisor.**

This award recognises accommodations, attractions and restaurants that earn consistently great reviews demonstrating a commitment to hospitality excellence. The award places St. Anne's among the top 10% of listings worldwide on Tripadvisor.

Marisa O'Mahoney, the Tower Manager at St. Anne's said:

“You always hope that visitors to the church and tower and bells enjoy their time. A lot do remark how they have loved it but it's extra special when they go to the trouble of writing a positive review online. Tripadvisor has been a very popular and respected source of information for visitors for years now and it's a great thrill to know we are consistently rating high as a recommended place to visit worldwide. We know we have a very special church and a unique tower visit here in the wonderful Shandon area. We endeavour to make our visitors welcome and experience some of that unique feeling. Thank you to our front desk representatives, volunteers, Select Vestry and Erasmus students for helping us achieve this award”.



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Echoing Marisa's sentiments the Rev. Meghan Farr, Priest-in-Charge, added:

It is an honour to receive this award because we know it's the result of visitors enjoying their time here at St. Anne's. We are a welcoming and inclusive church not just for those that come to worship but for anyone who comes through our doors. I am grateful to Marisa, Mary and the whole team who extend that hospitality every day to our visitors.

## News



**Down and Conor youth team at the airport ready to go to Lourdes**



## Supporting spouses in times of bereavement

**The Church of Ireland Marriage Council held a webinar recently with local church leaders and pastoral care teams to discuss the issues that people can face when their spouse or partner dies.**

The webinar included helpful inputs from trained counsellors across Ireland, and is now available to view on the Church of Ireland's Vimeo channel at [www.vimeo.com/956598841](https://www.vimeo.com/956598841)

As part of its role in resourcing the Church, the Marriage Council wants to support clergy, staff and parishioners in a variety of ways that connect with marriage and relationships. This is the first in a series of webinars to help in a simple and easy way.

The Council now plans to develop this series further and look at other issues such as 'the empty nest,' and handling issues around divorce and separation.

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To find out more about the work of the Marriage Council, please visit its pages on the Church of Ireland website at <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/our-faith/how-do-i-/marriage> or its Facebook page [@towardsmarriageireland](#)



## Relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to Ireland

**Later this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to Ireland for the very first time.**

This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them.

The Relics will visit the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora and the Diocese of Clonfert from the 5th – 8th September, 2024.



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## Cathedral Calls

### Irish bishop views Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver

**The Rt Revd Adrian Wilkinson, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, visited Vancouver Cathedral whilst on holiday. He posted the following comment.**



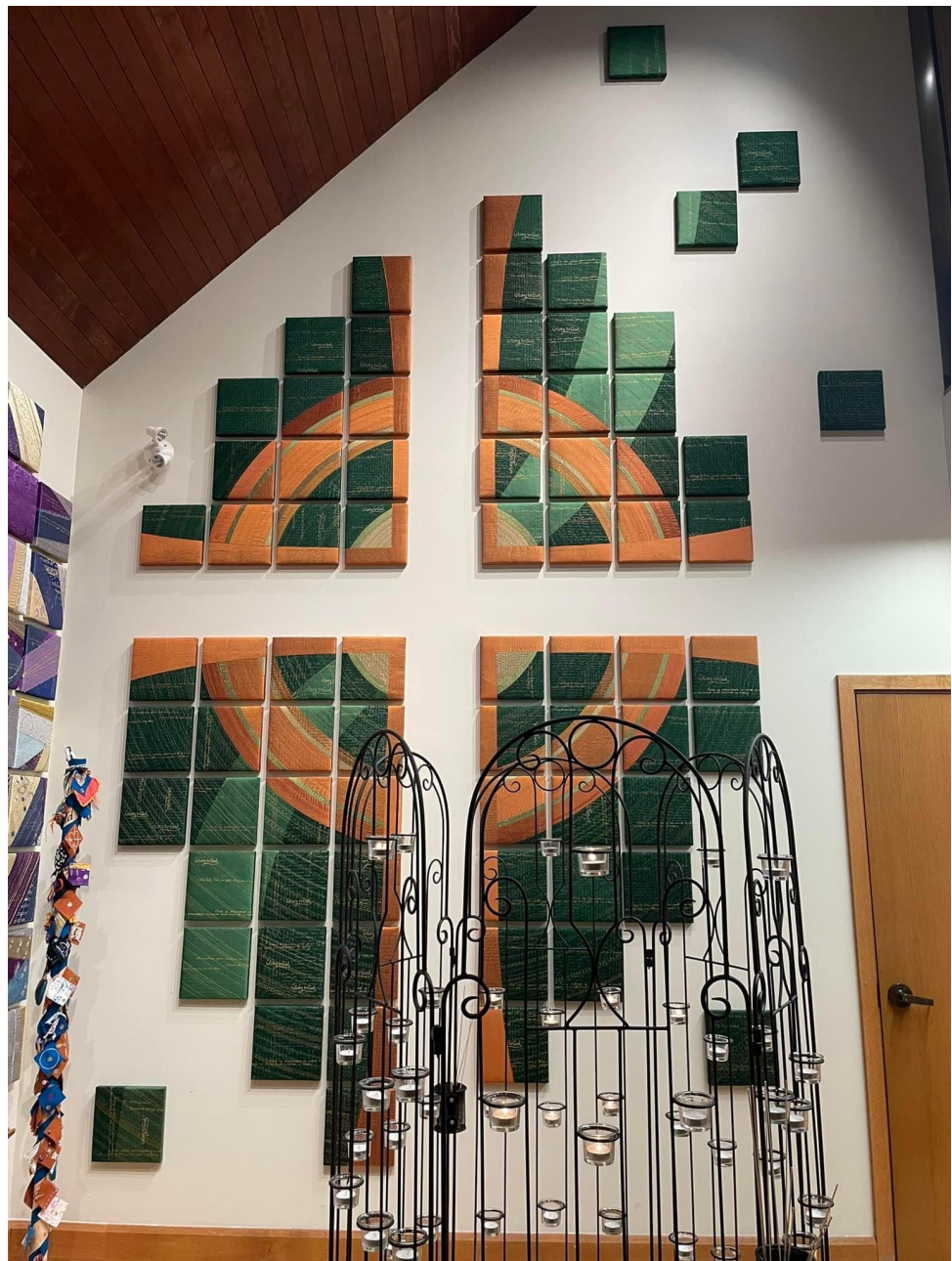
“It was great that my wife Jacqui and I met Bishop John Stephens (Diocese of New Westminster) and his wife Ruth when we were in Vancouver last



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week. I first met John when he was visiting his family in Wexford last year.

“It was interesting to see around Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver too. The organ there was built by Kenneth Jones, who also rebuilt the organ in our Christ Church Cathedral in Waterford.



“One of its former deans, the Very Revd Herbie O’Driscoll, came from Cork and was ordained in the Church of Ireland. Bishop John was born in Ireland too, the son of a clergyman. It is no surprise to see some Celtic imagery in the cathedral. Though dwarfed by the high rise buildings around it, the cathedral is an oasis for prayer, worship and hospitality in the heart of that busy city”.

See more at - [<https://www.thecathedral.ca/>]







## Clergy



### Meet the New Curate of Kiltern

**Photo - The Revd Caroline Brennan and the Revd Rob Clements, the Rector of Kiltern, on the day of her ordination to the Priesthood.**

**The Revd Caroline Brennan was ordained to the Priesthood in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday 23 June 2024 by Archbishop Michael Jackson.**

Here, she writes about her experience as an Intern Deacon in Monkstown Parish and her hopes for her Curacy in Kiltern Parish.

Just one week on from my ordination as priest, I am settling into my new role as curate assistant in the parish of Kilternan. Our living room at home is still festooned with a selection of greeting cards: Ordination cards, Thank You cards, Goodbye and Good Luck cards. Home is for now, Ballinteer, where I live with my husband David and our son Oscar, who is 12. I am slow to remove the recent accumulation of greeting cards as they are a tender reminder of the blessings of a life lived in church community. In the coming days, when the time comes to remove these mementoes from the sideboard where they are currently displayed, they will be stored lovingly in a memory box – perhaps for myself to rediscover at a later stage in my ministry or maybe even for others to discover in generations to come.

I have been truly blessed to serve my deacon year in the parish of Monkstown. It has been a time of profuse growth in terms of both my own personal and spiritual development. I couldn't have asked for a better mentor than my training rector, Canon Roy Byrne, whose spirit of compassion and kindness imbues all aspects of worship and community at Monkstown parish.

There were lots of 'firsts' throughout my deacon year: first baptism, first Advent, first Christmas, first Lent and first Easter. It was also the first time I had to say goodbye to a parish where I was embedded in a clerical role. I had not anticipated just how heart-wrenching that final departure from Monkstown parish would be. I am reminded however of the teachings of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Saint Luke (9:62): "No one, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."



And so, it is with a slightly complex set of emotions that I approach the first few days of my curacy in Kilternan parish – sad, to be severed from my previous role as deacon intern amongst the people of Monkstown and equally, excited, to take the next tentative steps into this new stage of ordained ministry. I am already so encouraged by the warm reception I have received from the ministerial team and parish community at Kilternan. There is a palpable vibrancy here which is quite simply infectious. I am immediately heartened by the enormous sense of hospitality, service and mission within my new faith community nestled at the foot of the Wicklow mountains. I feel utterly blessed to be able to observe and learn from the leadership skills of the Rector, the Reverend Rob Clements. Likewise, I feel utterly blessed and privileged to be able to share this next phase of my discipleship journey with the people of Kilternan parish.

As I begin the first year of a three–year curacy, I am mindful that spiritual growth is something that can only occur in relationship with God and at the discretion of God. In all the excitement of starting into this new role as curate and in the context of all the new responsibilities this entails, I know that I need to remain constantly attentive to God at work in my life or, more specifically – I need to constantly attend to God in my life. The path ahead is challenging but I remain anchored in the declarations I made on the day of my ordination to the priesthood: ‘By the help of God, I will.’ Thus, I am strengthened by the one who has called me. Likewise, I know that I am fully supported by those amongst whom I now joyously and humbly serve.



## Rector of Magheracross Parish, Clogher

**The new Rector of Magheracross Parish Church, the Revd Lorraine Capper, has been instituted by the Bishop of Clogher, Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis at a service on Thursday evening, 20 June.**

Revd Capper was previously Rector of Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully Parishes, also in Clogher Diocese.

The service was attended by the Dean and clergy from the Chapter of Clogher, along with the Archdeacon, Diocesan Registrar and other visiting clergy, Diocesan Readers and Parish Readers.

The special guest was the Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough, the Most Revd Dr. Michael Jackson, who was the preacher. He spent his early years in Magheracross Parish while his father was Rector there. While Bishop of





Clogher, he was a sponsor of Revd Lorraine as she set out on her training for ordination.

During the service, lessons were read by Mrs Valerie McMorris, Parish Reader; Revd Jason Kernoghan, a College friend of Revd Lorraine and Revd Alan Capper, Rector of Lisnaskea Parish, who is Revd Lorraine's husband.

As part of the Act of Institution and Commission, Revd Lorraine was guided around the Church stopping at the door, font, prayer desk, pulpit and Lord's Table with the Bishop of Clogher where parish representatives participated including Joy Quinn, Churchwarden; Liane Armstrong, Mothers' Union; Dylan Beatty (Youth representative); Raymond Armstrong, Choir and Howard McMorris, Parish Reader.

The hymns were; "God is here! As we his people," "May the mind of Christ my saviour," "Lord, for the years your love

has kept and guided,” “We love the place, O God,” “O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end,” “Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart” and “Now thank we all our God.” The organist was Mrs Rita Stewart.

The present church was built in the centre of the village in 1785 and rebuilt in 1844 retaining the original tower. In 1904, the Chancel and Romanesque Arch at the front of the church was added. A new parish room was added to the north side of the church in 1993.

Following the service, refreshments were served in the Archdale Hall where Revd Lorraine was welcomed by representatives of the parish as well as Revd John Beacom from Ballinamallard Methodist Church. A message of best wishes was extended by Mr. Charles Crawford representing the Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully Group of Churches where Revd Capper had served for the past four years.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership

#### **In July's WMP newsletter:**

- A new way to support mission
- Update from Melissa Newell & Gillian Sloan
- Irish Methodist team to Tanzania
- Container Ministry team in Latvia



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Read the full newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/cade2ec5154c/wmp-july-2024>

DV

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# 30 YEARS OF DERRYVOLGIE HALL

*Sign up to hear more via the link in our bio*



**Celebrating 30 years of DV** ✨

**Exciting things are in the works to celebrate 30 years of Derryvolgie Hall.**

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If you would like to be kept updated and to hear more please let the organisers know via the link below:

<https://forms.gle/maC9sTHr78kry3Vd6>

## 'Anthem' Youth Worship Week in Hollywood Parish

**Hollywood Parish is opening up its popular Youth Worship Week to other parishes in Down and Dromore.**

From Tuesday 20-Friday 23 August Simon Burrows and other tutors will be helping interested young people to grow in their instrument or voice, and in playing with others in a church worship context. The input will be mostly practical, but they'll also be talking about what sung worship is, why we do it and how we should approach it.

Simon, who is Hollywood's Contemporary Worship Leader says:

"I've run this event for last couple of years in Hollywood and it's been a big encouragement for our youth who are now involved regularly in our church worship. We've gone from just having a couple of teens involved in music to ten! I would like to think it has also contributed to growing their faith.

"If we can extend this beyond Hollywood Parish and invest in the youth of other churches, then I think that is a very exciting prospect!"

Who's it for?



Participants should be aged between 11-18yrs and have some experience on their chosen instrument, but not necessarily in a church band context. These generally will include guitar, keys/piano, bass, drums and vocals. We may be able to facilitate other instruments, but these will have to be reviewed on an individual basis.

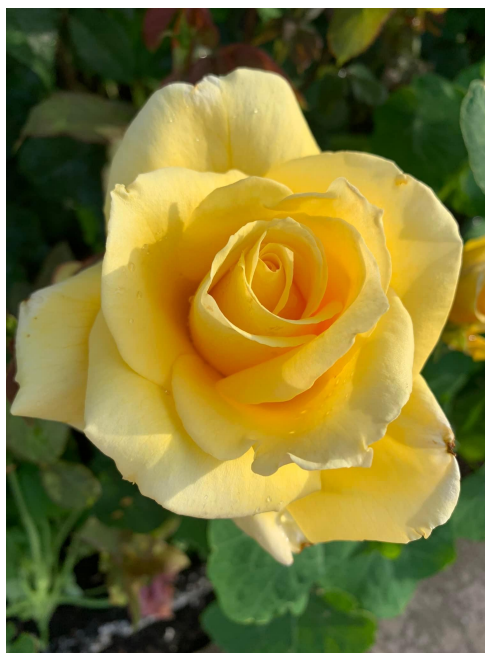
When: 20-23 August from 10.00am – 1.00pm with lunch provided afterwards.

Cost: Just £10 per person

Simon would recommend coming for all four days but it's not a requirement.

PARENTS, numbers are quite limited so if you are keen for your young person to get involved sign up quickly using the online form via -

<https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2024/07/anthem-youth-worship-week-in-hollywood-parish>



## In the media

### **Belfast Telegraph - A dozen historic listed Belfast churches which 'tell story of the city' lying vacant**

**A dozen historic listed churches in Belfast are officially vacant, it has emerged, writes Andrew Madden.**

They include Carlisle Memorial Church in the north of the city and St Joseph's in the Docks area.

While some of the buildings are used occasionally for events, such as art exhibitions, they are all officially without permanent occupiers.

On the list of vacant church buildings is St Matthias' on the Glen Road, which was first opened in 1892 and was used for more than 70 years by the Church of Ireland.

It was re-consecrated as a Catholic church in 1970.

A new St Matthias' church building was opened in 2004 and the old corrugated iron structure remains standing, albeit in a state of disrepair.

For a period between 2020 and 2021, it was used as a food bank.

The old Windsor Presbyterian Church on the Lisburn Road is also vacant.

Dating back to the late 19th century, its congregation moved to a new site on Great Victoria Street in 2022 due to the high cost of maintaining the original building.

Other buildings classed as vacant include St Luke's Church of Ireland on Northumberland Street.

Consecrated in 1863, the Gothic Revival church held services until 2006 and subsequently was used as a community centre, before being put up for sale in 2016.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary on the Ormeau Road dates back to the late 1800s. It was closed in 1980 and later sold.

In recent years, there were plans to transform the church into a boutique hotel and restaurant, but to date these have not come to fruition and the building remains derelict.

Stormont's Department for Communities holds a register of buildings across Northern Ireland that are of architectural and historic interest and are deemed to be at risk due to a lack of redevelopment or reuse.

Regarding Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, the Heritage at Risk Register states: "Despite being eminently capable of adaptation to a number of different uses, the building still remains vacant.

"An upward trend of church buildings becoming redundant due to dwindling congregation numbers sets a new task for



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their regeneration and [to] keep their structures in use, but sensitivity to that new use must be upheld.

“At present, the building is showing signs of deterioration which is not helped by the lack of use and remedial care.”

Carlisle Memorial Church was built in the 1870s and held services until 1982 when it closed.

It is now owned by the Belfast Buildings Trust, which works on regenerating some of the city’s most historic buildings, and is used on occasion as an events space.

Shane Quinn of the Belfast Buildings Trust said churches which have become defunct from their original purpose are among the most difficult to repurpose and adapt.

“These buildings are important for us and for those of us who care about the city’s character. Like any historic building, they tell a story of the city today and those changes that the city has gone through,” he said.

“That’s why they’re important for us from a heritage perspective. But from a Belfast Buildings Trust perspective, it’s crucial that the uses for them today are relevant for people in the city today.”

Mr Quinn said the trust would like the buildings repurposed to “suit the current needs of people”.

Courtesy Belfast Telegraph - Andrew Madden July 10 2024

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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