

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Hillsborough Castle art rehang

April 15, 2024

Image of the day



Hillsborough Castle art rehang

Hillsborough Castle has announced a major re-hang of artwork which features 33 new pieces of art in a veritable who's who of Irish art stemming from a number of collaborations with a variety of lenders.

Historic Royal Palaces is also delighted to announce the acquisition of a Thomas Lawrence portrait of Lord Marcus Hill and 51 miniature portraits of the Hill and Sandys families. Lord Sandys was a descendent of the Hill family, who built the castle in the 18th century. This summer, eight of the Ombersley Miniatures will go on display in the State Ante Room while the remaining 43 are conserved by an expert team.



These works will appear alongside a portrait of Elizabeth II by Colin Davidson and a portrait of Charles III by Gareth Reid.

News

Fun in the sun at irishtown school's new play area

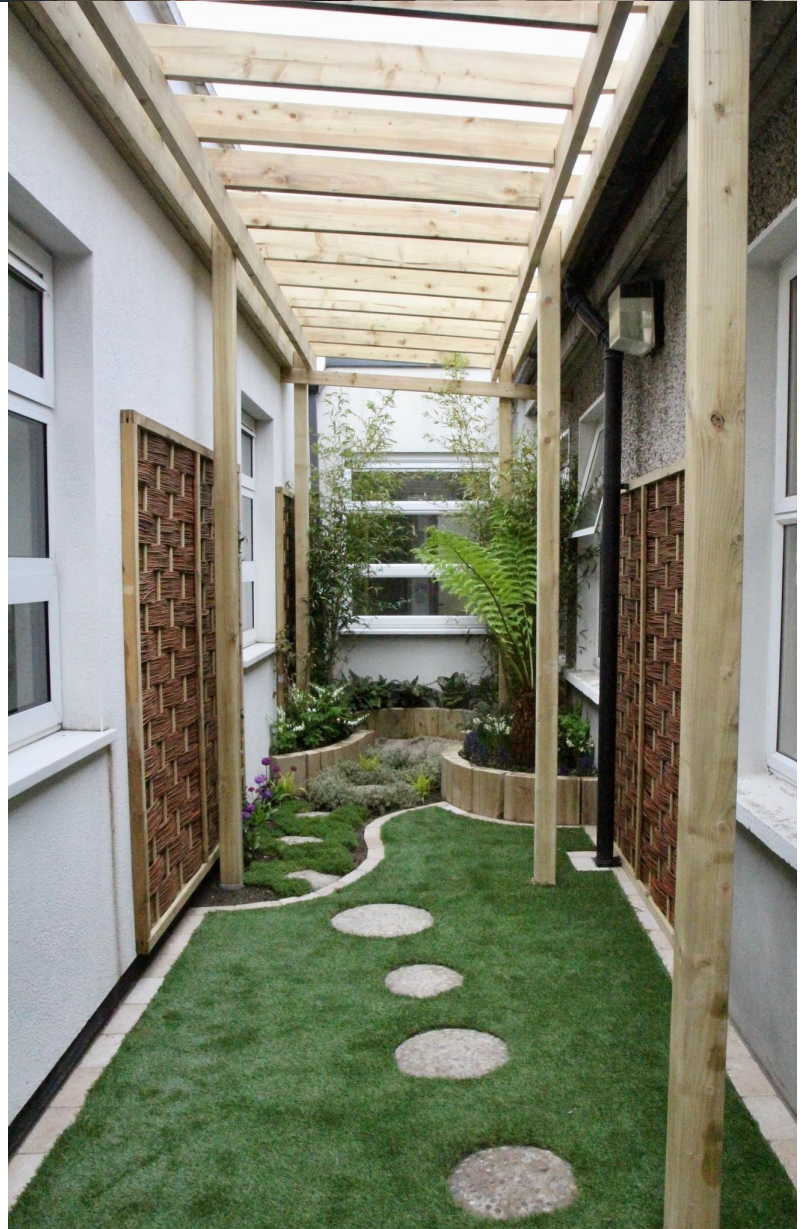
The sun shone down on the pupils of St Matthew's National School in Irishtown on Thursday morning past for the official opening of their new play area.



A beautiful new area provides extra space for the school's 220 pupils and was purchased from a neighbour of St Matthew's.

The official ribbon cutting was done by Helen, a pupil in sixth class, with the help of local TD Jim O'Callaghan.

Archbishop Michael Jackson gave a blessing. The occasion was also attended by a



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number of local election candidates.

5th Antrim 
Scouts

 
**Beetle
Drive**  

**In Aid of Antrim and
Newtownabbey Food Bank**

16th April 2024 7-9pm
Parish Centre
£4 per person
Scout Group members free
Everyone Welcome!
REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE

April 15, 2024

St Finnian's goes a-bouldering



Move over Spiderman - St Finnian's Parish Sunday School kids have climbing superpowers like you wouldn't believe.

A great day out was had by all at Boulder World. Fantastic to see how much their confidence grew with each climb. Well done all!

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St Finnian's Parish

[<http://www.stfinnians.org/>]

Boulder World Belfast is
at 41 Boucher Road BT12
6HR

[[https://
boulderworldbelfast.com/](https://boulderworldbelfast.com/)]

Stamp sorters wanted by CMSI

“At CMSI we are blessed with many generous donations of used stamps that we pass on for a small profit -

but we desperately need more volunteers to trim and sort them! If you are interested please do pop into the office to collect a bag or two!

“If you do currently donate stamps to us and would like more information on how to trim and sort them before giving them to us, call the office on 028 9077 5020 or email infor@cmsireland.org



Visit to Gracefield & Woodschapel Mothers' Union

“I have just arrived home after spending a lovely evening with Mothers' Union from Gracefield & Woodschapel. I just loved the little church, it really was like stepping back in time.

“There was a feeling of calmness and peace despite the heartfelt grief all the members are feeling after losing their beloved Rev Ruth Murray.

“Rev Ruth was their Rector, MU member and friend, she will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her. We will

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keep Ruth's family and friends in our prayers as they face the difficult days ahead.

“I received a very warm welcome from their Parish Reader, Izette Hunter and Branch Leader, Lynda Galway.

“The theme of tonight's service was 'Living the Abundant Life' .

“The prayers, readings, music and singing were very meaningful and comforting.

“Thank you ladies for the delicious supper and fellowship we shared.

“Also thank you for the beautiful flowers....I just love tulips. I look forward to seeing you again soon.”,

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C of I Priest calls on rural communities to ‘love your neighbour’ as rain continues

A Church of Ireland priest has called on rural communities to lend a listening ear and “love your neighbour” as wet weather continues to create difficult conditions across the country.

Reverend Dr. Lester Scott, who is based in Co. Carlow, told Agriland that he has received numerous phone calls from

MothersUNION
Christian care for families
DUBLIN & GLENDALOUGH



COFFEE MORNING

HOSTED BY ARKLOW MOTHERS' UNION

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2024

10AM – 12 MIDDAY

ST. SAVIOURS PARISH HALL, ARKLOW

EIRCODE: Y14 XK15

ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF
ARKLOW RNLi AND BRAY WOMEN'S REFUGE AND
OUTREACH SERVICES



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farmers who are struggling with stress and anxiety because of the persistent rain.

Rev. Scott, a farmer's son from Ballagh, Co. Tipperary, said for many, farming is an "isolated and lonely enterprise".

He believes that the recent wet weather and ongoing inflationary pressures is "a toxic recipe for poor mental health for those who labour so hard to provide the quality food which sustains us and which we enjoy"

The Choir Studio
Presents

Donations welcome to
PI.P.S.
Hope and Support

Songs of Hope & Reflection

An evening of music, hope & reflection
in aid of PIPS Hope and Support.

Sunday
21st April @4pm
Venue:
St Mary's Star of
the Sea Chapel,
Rostrevor

Featuring

The Uplifted Gospel Choir
Leon
Emily-Jane Flanagan
Mark & Gareth Hughes
Paul McMahon
All welcome!

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Rev. Scott added: “Irish farmers are drowning, not just in the wet weather, but also, with the problem of costs.”

“Mental health and the pervading deterioration of it is a real concern for me in my predominantly farming ministerial context,” Rev. Scott said.

He provides “pastoral support and a listening ear” to those who need it – without any religious overtones and to anyone who needs it – from the perspective of being a farmer’s son.

“One farmer told me the other day that his life is very isolated, he is out on the land, working all hours and has very little time for family life.

“With the income levels as they are and having to put money back into the enterprise, it really is not viable,” Rev. Scott added.



Foyle U3A Choir
Musical Director: Jim Goodman

Spring Concert

Wednesday April 17th 7.30-8.30

Christ Church Londonderry

**A celebration of Choral Music, Secular and Sacred
Choir with Soloists, Band, Piano and Organ**

Admission Free

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He believes that the “Achilles heel” of farming will always be the weather but farmers are currently facing issues,” such as slurry and not being able to get it out onto the land, just like the livestock”.

Rural communities

Rev. Scott also told Agriland that these issues are just a “snapshot” of the worries that farmers and rural communities are facing currently.

He said there is also the issue of the “poor payments” that farmers receive for the hard-work they do, while the EU is being “flooded with cheap food” and it is hard to compete with cheaper food.

“It seems like everything is done to trip up the Irish farmer,” Rev. Scott said.

Originally from a farm in Co. Tipperary one of his key concerns is that he believes many farmers will put on a “brave face” and will not talk about what is going on.

“People in cities or politicians do not really understand what it is like to be a farmer, and the issues farmers are facing now,” he added.

With wet conditions set to continue Rev. Scott is keen to let people know that while he cannot solve the current weather problems, he can be a “listening ear” to those in need.

Rev. Scott said that he wants to inspire other people to “love your neighbour as yourself” and offer a “supportive,

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listening ear” to anyone in their rural community who may be struggling.

Report courtesy of Maeve Hennessy and Agriland

Knock Shrine set to host international conference with notable keynote speakers

An international conference will place at St. John’s Welcome Centre, Knock Shrine, in conjunction with Notre Dame University, Australia next week.

The two-day event will be held on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 from 10am to 4pm.

Keynote speaker on both days will be Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops. The conference will be facilitated by Prof. Eamonn Conway, advisor to the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

In advance of the conference, Prof. Eamonn Conway stated that “It is clear, even from recent decisions to merge dioceses in the West of Ireland, that change in the Church is inevitable. Such change if chosen wisely and guided by the Holy Spirit, will see a new and transformed blossoming of Christian faith in Ireland. This conference provides a unique opportunity to link the local with the global. Ní neart go cur le chéile.” The programme for the conference is as follows:

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Cardinal Mario Grech will open the conference on Friday morning, April 19 with a keynote address under the theme 'The Synod -A Global View.

Prof Renée Kohler-Ryan of Notre Dame University, Australia, and a voting Member of the 16th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops representing Oceania, will discuss our church on a missionary footing.

Attendees will have the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the Synod from an Irish perspective from Rev. Declan Hurley, Co-Chair of the National Steering Committee for the Synodal Pathway in Ireland, and Vicar General of the Diocese of Meath.

On Saturday, April 20 the theme that will be discussed during the conference will be 'The Synod – Ireland and The World'.

Ireland's place in the global Church will be the focus of the second day of the conference. The theme will be explored in an address by Cardinal Mario Grech and Julieann Moran, General Secretary of the Synodal Pathway in Ireland.

Meanwhile, Dr Dermot Ryan, Director of Adult Faith Development for the Diocese of Ossory, will explore the way in which we are all called to a synodal life through our parish communities and structures.

The afternoon session will take the format of a panel discussion on the topic of becoming a more inclusive Church and the day will conclude with an open forum. See www.knockshrine.ie for more information.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



The Organ Podcast

Listen to The Organ Podcast at <https://bit.ly/3w9wm46> to find out how the UK's largest cathedral organ, at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, is being enhanced still further with the installation of a new echo division.

Presenter Mark O'Brien climbs 137 steps to find out more, including the challenges of tuning an organ in a building so large it has its own micro-climate.

Available now at <https://bit.ly/3w9wm46> or wherever you find your podcasts (and don't forget to subscribe so you never miss an episode)

Calling all Belfast friends of ECI

Dom Christopher Jamison currently serves as Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation.

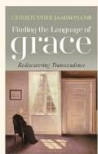


Climate Redemption *Hope for the World*

A Discussion With Dom Christopher Jamison OSB

Language, in all its forms is our pathway to grace and hope: but it's also a pathway to despair. In a recent publication Hannah Ritchie describes the challenge:

"It has become common to tell kids that they're going to die from climate change. If a heatwave doesn't get them then a wildfire will. Or a hurricane, a flood, or mass starvation. Incredibly, many of us hardly blink before telling our children this story. It shouldn't, then, come as a surprise that most young people think their future is in peril. There is an intense feeling of anxiety and dread about what the planet has in store for us." **Not the End of the World**



Drawing on his thoughts in ***Finding the Language of Grace: Rediscovering Transcendence*** Dom Christopher explores a language more hopeful than the language of doom and despair which hangs over our expectations of many areas of contemporary life.

To Book

Visit www.belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk for the link to book, or contact us by email or phone. Details below.



Dom Christopher Jamison currently serves as Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation. He is known for his media work and vocations guidance for young people. His books include ***Finding Sanctuary***, ***Finding Happiness*** and ***Finding the Language of Grace***.

Belfast Jesuit Centre
Sunday 5th May
3pm - 5.45pm
Mass in St Patrick's
6.00pm

Belfast Jesuit Centre
193 – 195 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FL

Email
belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com

Phone
0770 631 6319

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Ulster Consort to celebrate John Rutter

**Join the
Ulster
Consort in a
celebration
of one of the
world's
best-loved
composers,
John Rutter,
in their next
'60 Minutes
at Six'
concert:
Friday 19**

April 15, 2024

April, 6 -7pm at Fisherwick Presbyterian Church.

The Consort, conducted by Matthew Owens and accompanied by Tristan Russcher will perform some of Rutter's lesser known but fabulous secular works, including the jazzy 'Five Birthday Madrigals'. We will also be joined by stellar flautist, Jennifer Sturgeon (of the Ulster Orchestra) in a rare performance of the 'Suite Antique'.

Tickets are available in advance via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sing-a-song-of-sixpence-tickets-777637192777> or on the evening at the door, from 5.30pm. Under 18s are free of charge.



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
