

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Brighter Gold

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Image of the day **Brighter Gold**



Front page - Tamlaghtard Parish Church, Duncrun, Binevenagh..framed in gold - Brighter Gold - from the oilseed rape blossoms.

The historic, scenic Church was built in the 1780's with the financial assistance of the legendary Earl Bishop Hervey of Downhill Demesne. It stands at the base of the escarpment of Bennevenagh Mountain and the vista extends beyond the plain levels of the river Roe towards Lough Foyke and the hills of Donegal. Photographed at the weekend by Samuel Cole

Above - The very same Tamlaghtard Parish Church, Duncrun Rd, Magilligan, looking towards the escarpment. Photo by Mike Murphy

News



Movie night warmth for bishop

Bishop Paul Colton said he “received the most amazing and heartfelt gift from the pupils and staff of St Fin Barre’s National School in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral parish in the Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

“Every child and staff member took part in knitting this wonderful blanket as a silver jubilee gift. One little girl said ‘That’s to keep you warm on movie nights at home.’”

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Top note for Chaplaincy Director of Sacred Music

**Huge
congratulations
to the Director
of Sacred Music
at the Catholic
Chaplaincy at
QUB,, Eílís Fox,
who graduated
this week from
the Royal Irish
Academy of
Music at Trinity
College with a
Masters in
Music Performance.**



Eílís was placed top of her year. What an incredible achievement! The Chaplaincy said, “We're immensely proud of you Eílís!”

Donegal's C of I schools celebrate their achievement

**Principals, teachers and school management board
members gathered in Letterkenny's Mount Errigal Hotel**



on Wednesday evening (17th April) to celebrate the achievement of schools in Donegal under Church of Ireland patronage.

The audience were treated to a presentation by Dr Jacqui Wilkinson from the Church of Ireland Centre at Dublin City University who shared a presentation on 'Life in the Church of Ireland Primary School through the voices of the children'. It was based on interviews the academic had done with more than three thousand pupils at 92 Church of Ireland schools in the Republic to explore their attitudes towards school ethos.

Mrs Wilkinson's research presented a very positive picture of life in these schools, giving the teaching professionals and managers much food for thought. 72% of the pupils

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attended a Christian place of worship "at least sometimes" and almost 90% of the schools held assembly and taught RE at least once a week. The vast majority of children found their schools to be welcoming and caring places, which taught them to respect others and care for the world around them. They also felt God was "very important" in their schools.



Mrs Wilkinson, who is a lecturer in Religious Education in the DCU Institute of Education, said in her experience, every school was different. Emphasizing the importance of parish-school links, she said that Church of Ireland schools shared many of the same values as other schools but it was their foundation in Christianity that distinguished them.

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, thanked Mrs Wilkinson for her presentation and for sharing the results of her research with the Donegal schools. He told



the teachers present that they should never underestimate the impact they had on the lives of the children they cared for and educated. And he told the members of boards of management there that they were the people who were prepared to do "the heavy lifting" in their communities to make sure that their children's welfare was protected, that their education was resourced and that they were blessed by what was happening in their school lives.

Bishop Andrew also thanked the Archdeacon of Raphoe, Ven. David Huss, for organising Wednesday evening's event. Archdeacon Huss had opened the meeting, welcoming Dr Wilkinson and also singling out the recently appointed Moderator of the Derry and Donegal Presbytery, Rev Susan Moore, who was in the audience. Of the 31 schools in the county under Protestant patronage, 17 are

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managed by the Church of Ireland, 11 by the Presbyterian Church and three are under joint control.

Clerical appointments



Warden of Readers in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory

The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, the Right Reverend Adrian Wilkinson, has announced the appointment of the Revd Helen Oxley as the new Warden of Readers in succession to Dean Tom Gordon who has retired recently. Helen graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a degree in Hebrew, Biblical and Theological Studies. She trained initially as a Secondary teacher specialising in RE and History. She later retrained as a primary teacher and is currently teaching principal in Kiltegan National School, one

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of the diocesan schools. She completed her Master of Ministry in Theology and was ordained for the Non-Stipendiary Ministry in 2011, beginning her ministry in Dunleckney Union. She has since served in a variety of parishes in the Diocese.

Helen happily remembers her time as both a parish and diocesan reader and is looking forward to getting to know the current readers. 'I am really honoured to be asked by the Bishop to take on the role of Warden of Readers. I deeply appreciate the amount of time, energy, and commitment Readers put into their preparation and conduct of services. We could not manage without them.'

Bishop Wilkinson says 'I am delighted that the Revd Helen Oxley has accepted my invitation to be the next Warden of Readers in the Diocese. Before ordination Helen was an active lay reader and so she has personal experience of this distinctive and important ministry in the church. Apart from her academic qualifications, I know that she will bring both commitment and enthusiasm to this role as she mentors and supports all our Diocesan Readers.'

NSPCI Social Media officers

Following the recent GPC, the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church announced that Rev Lynda Kane (Minister in Ballyclare, Cairncastle and Ballymoney) and Mr. Alan Kirk (Representative Elder in All Souls) will be reprising their roles as interim social media officers for the Non-Subscribing PCI until the next Synod.



Welcome Back!

Lynda and Alan are eager to bring their experience and ideas to the table; as they reprise their roles and create a welcoming and engaging online space for our family of churches.

The NSPCI Facebook page seeks to bring everyone in the denomination together by reflecting our spectrum of values and beliefs and fostering meaningful connections with members, friends and followers. Stay tuned for updates!

Cathedral Call



Thanksgiving for The Divine Beauty Project at Birmingham Cathedral

“Choral Evensong during which we give thanks for The Divine Beauty Project – Sunday 21 April”

Join us for a special service of Choral Evensong with the blessing and rededication of our beautiful stained-glass windows. The service will be followed by the first screening of the Divine Beauty documentary film, showing a behind-the-scenes glimpse into their conservation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTACxbuWtFg>

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Brisbane Combined Choirs Evensong

This Sunday, April 21 hear the rarely performed Howells' "Collegium Regale," sung by the Trinity Choir with guest choristers from All Saints Anglican Church, Brisbane.

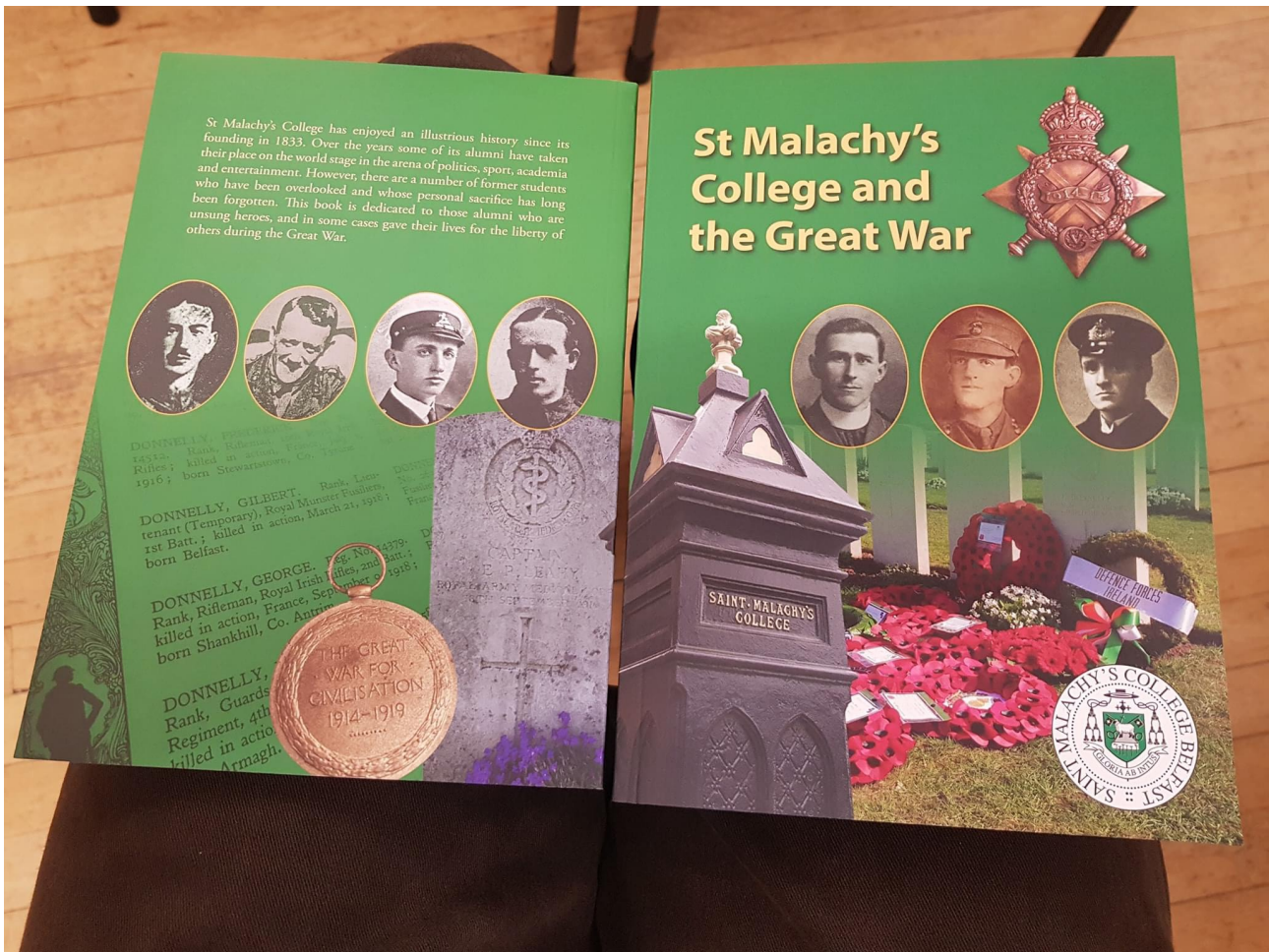
“Maybe not be utterly remarkable per se, but a bold foray for our inner-city parishes in Brisbane ...”

The anthem will be Farrant's "Call to Remembrance."

Come for the soaring sacred music! Stay for a glass of wine afterwards!

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The livestream will go out at 1800 AEST this Sunday at <https://www.youtube.com/@holytrinityvalley> and will remain accessible there after the service.



Remembering St. Malachy's College service in WW1

There was a book launch this week at St. Malachy's College, Belfast. This publication was compiled by John Gordon and Dr. William Roulston to remember and honour students who lost their lives in the Great War.

One of these was Patrick Joseph Wallace, who died of wounds on 20th July 1916, while a prisoner of war after the Battle of the Somme. He is remembered with an inscription

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on a lovely headstone on the Wallace family grave at Friar's Bush.

This college is of great historic interest, being built by 1833 on the site of Vicinage, the former home of the remarkable Thomas McCabe; watchmaker, cotton weaver and the man who ensured that Belfast voted against operating directly in the slave trade. There is a blue plaque in his honour. There is also one for Professor Eoin MacNeill, a former pupil at the college.

The book will soon be available from the Ulster Historical Foundation, cost £15, or £10 for UHF members and college alumni.

<https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com/>

Anglican Communion Schools Network webinar

A webinar introducing the Anglican Communion Schools Network is to be held on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

The new Schools Network is aimed at Anglicans around the globe who are responsible for leading and promoting Anglican school education for children and teenagers.

“My hope is that the Anglican Communion Schools Network will be a wonderful way for educators from around the world, who are responsible for managing and developing education for children under eighteen to come together, collaborate, learn from one another, share ideas and resources.” - The Most Revd Kay Goldsworthy, Chair of the Schools Network.



The Most Revd Kay Goldsworthy, Chair of the Schools Network. Read the full news story:

<https://bit.ly/4aCFFsE> #Anglicans

Cregagh Presbyterian Church chooses Kramer AV solution

Cregagh Church in Belfast has stood for the past 110 years to provide its congregation a place for daily worship, weekly and special activities and events throughout the year.

After a “Save Cregagh Church” campaign in 2013, 90% of the bricks in the building were replaced at a cost of £1 million.



Now, the AV solution is evermore important to the daily running of the church. Looking to enhance its worship experience, the church has enlisted Kramer to boost its AV capabilities.

As a multi-building, multi-story complex, with six rooms for different functions, the church's existing AV system had become outdated and restrictive to its evolving needs, namely flexibility, interactivity and remote attendee access which are all key to its ambitions.

The newly added solutions also needed to seamlessly integrate with the existing control system whilst maintaining the buildings' aesthetics. The church turned to Rea Sound AV to integrate Kramer's solution.



Roger McMullan, director of Rea Sound AV said: “We’ve partnered with several churches similar to Cregagh Presbyterian and worked with Kramer for a long time on many projects, so we know the quality of its products and the ease of control and flexibility it gives to ensure projects like this were successful.”

More at -

<https://www.worshipavl.com/details/75194-cregagh-presbyterian-church-chooses-kramer-avoip>

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In the media

Irish Night Concert to take place for Inishbiggle's Holy Trinity Church - Mayo Live

The concert will raise funds to repair the church roof, eaves and inside floor at the request of the late Christy Henry

An Irish night concert for Inishbiggle's Holy Trinity Church repairs is set to take place on Achill Island.

Local residents and visitors alike are invited to join in the evening of music and community spirit at Óstán Oileán Acla (Achill Island Hotel) on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6, at 8pm.

The special event holds particular significance as it was the request of Inishbiggle's late Christy Henry.

He requested the concert to raise money to help with necessary repairs to Inishbiggle's historic Holy Trinity Church.

The idea for the concert arose during a meeting between Mr Henry and singer James Kilbane, just a week before his untimely passing.

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Mr Henry's passion for his community and dedication to preserving its heritage will be honoured through an evening of entertainment.

Anxious to raise money for the church roof, eaves and inside floor, Mr Henry stressed that the small community valued the church as their location of worship and a centre for the community to gather. The church itself is part of the Church of Ireland, however it is also consecrated that Roman Catholic services can take place there.

Achill Island and Ballycroy have always had a strong bond with the people of Inishbiggle, and many people in the community knew Mr Henry.

Local Church of Ireland Rector Suzanne Cousins, who had met Christy before his passing, is also involved in the concert.

She said: "I made my first trip to Inishbiggle on 27 July 2023. On the day, my parishioners and I were met by Christy with other islander friends. We went straight to the church to survey its condition and then to celebrate the Eucharist. The building looked a little 'sad', to put it mildly, and the need for attention inside and out was evident. I believe there are times when we are given glimpses of light and hope that shine and lighten the darkness, and this concert, which has come as a result of Christy's wish, is an example.

"Those of us from the Church of Ireland community with responsibility for keeping this special, historically significant little church fit for the purpose of worship and gathering are

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enormously grateful to James Kilbane, his team, fellow singers and Cathal McLoughlin of the hotel who are giving generously of their time to this end. I am looking forward to meeting many in Achill Sound on the night,” added Reverend Cousins.

Inspired by the community commitment of Mr Henry, James Kilbane along with other local singers, Grainne Madden, Michael Mac, Pat Molloy, Rory McGinty, Tom McGinty, and Cian McNamara, have volunteered their talents to create a memorable night filled with Irish ballads, memories, and some country classics. All the artists have shared a connection with Christy over the years.

Tickets priced at €15 are available from post offices in Achill Sound, Mulranny, and Ballycroy, as well as Keel shop, The Islander, Alfa at Meg’s, MacSavers, and Óstán Oileán Acla.

Additionally, tickets are available from Reverend Suzanne at 083 8003233.

<https://www.mayonews.ie/news/local-news/1478180/irish-night-concert-to-take-place-for-inishbiggle-s-holy-trinity-church.html>

Poem for today

Once Alien Here by John Hewitt

Once alien here my fathers built their house,
claimed, drained, and gave the land the shapes of use,

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and for their urgent labour grudged no more
than shuffled pennies from the hoarded store
of well rubbed words that had left their overtones
in the ripe England of the mounded downs.

“The sullen Irish limping to the hills
bore with them the enchantments and the spells
that in the clans’ free days hung gay and rich
on every twig of every thorny hedge,
and gave the rain-pocked stone a meaning past
the blurred engraving of the fibrous frost.

“So I, because of all the buried men
in Ulster clay, because of rock and glen
and mist and cloud and quality of air
as native in my thought as any here,
who now would seek a native mode to tell
our stubborn wisdom individual,
yet lacking skill in either scale of song,
the graver English, lyric Irish tongue,
must let this rich earth so enhance the blood
with steady pulse where now is plunging mood
till thought and image may, identified,
find easy voice to utter each aright.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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