

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Yale Institute of Sacred Music

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Image of the day

Yale Institute of Sacred Music



Livestream of music marking 50th anniversary at Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music

"David Hill has made an indelible mark through his work at Yale....he has impacted audiences both here and abroad through visionary programming and exquisitely crafted performances, but most importantly he has helped prepare the next generation of leaders through his pedagogy." — Professor Martin Jean, ISM Director

After eleven years at Yale, David will conduct his final performance in New Haven today Saturday at 7:30pm in

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Woolsey Hall where Yale Schola Cantorum and Juilliard415 will sing the magnificent Bach's Mass in B Minor. Join us in this special celebration of the ISM's 50th anniversary at Yale University. Free and open to the public! Details, including livestream link: <https://ism.yale.edu/event/bachs-mass-b-minor>

Read more about

David's time at Yale and watch a short video where he explains why he chose the B Minor Mass for his last concert. <https://bit.ly/49WWM7k>

Yale School of Music ACDA East The Juilliard School
Johann Sebastian Bach Society

If you live in the UK, David will take the Bach Mass on tour in six UK cities in May and June. Read more - scroll down at: <https://bit.ly/3w7ORpW>

News

The Fast Ferrys on the run for Parkinson's UK

The Rev Malcolm Ferry, rector of Agherton Parish, Portstewart, will be taking a break from preaching on Sunday May 5, and along his wife Carol will be cheering on family members taking part in the Belfast Marathon.

Their niece Vicky will be running the full marathon, while their daughters Sarah and Rebekah, along with El, fiancé of their son James, Sarah's fiancé Max and Vicky's boyfriend Ed will be doing the marathon relay. Their team name – the Fast Ferrys!

All are raising funds for Parkinson's UK, a charity close to the heart of everyone in the family as Carol was diagnosed with the condition 20 years ago. Not only has the family seen first- hand the debilitating impacts of Parkinson's, but also what research can do. Carol has got her life back following life-changing Deep Brain Stimulation surgery in 2022 and is now able to enjoy dinners with friends and travel abroad; things that were a challenge or impossible before her surgery.

All six young people taking part in the marathon currently live in England and are flying to Belfast specifically for the race. "This came out of the blue for us," said Malcolm. It was really quite a shock. They have already raised more than

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£4,000 for Parkinson's UK. That is a phenomenal amount of money! This is their way of giving something to the charity. I am very proud of them all."

Anyone wishing to support Vicky, Sarah, Rebekah and their team can make an online donation via the Parkinson's UK website.



First clergy conference for Bishop of Down & Connor

"The risen Lord is with us here today." Bishop Alan met the priests of the diocese on Tuesday for his first conference with the clergy in Antrim.

He led the priests in prayer, spoke to them

about his experience of attending the synod in Rome last year and invited them to have 'conversations in the spirit'. The conference finished with a fraternal meal.



Bishop McGuckian also spoke about his plans to visit as many parishes as possible in the coming months, and his desire for a diocesan-wide novena.

Transformation theme of Connor Mothers' Union Festival Service

The annual Connor Mothers' Union Festival Service took place in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday April 21.

The service began with a procession of colourful diocesan branch banners, with the Diocesan Banner and the Cathedral Banner – carried by Moira Thom, Vice-President Fundraising and Communications Unit and a former

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Diocesan President, and Diane Innes, Cathedral branch secretary, respectively – received by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde.



At the Connor Mothers' Union Festival Service 2024 are, from left: Iris Sutor, All-Ireland Zonal Trustee; Sally Connor, Connor President; and June Butler, All-Ireland President.

The service included the commissioning of Cathy Doig as Fundraising and Communications Unit Co-ordinator and a member of the Trustee Board by the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, Connor Diocesan and All-Ireland Chaplain.

Mrs Doig also read the Old Testament lesson – Exodus 16: 4-15 – with Melanie McAlister, Young Member Contact, reading the New Testament lesson – John 4: 5-30.



The Intercessions were led by Valerie Ash, Worldwide Contact and East Connor Area Chair, and Roslyn Graham, North Connor Area Chair.

The theme of the service was Transformation – Now! and worship was led by the Cathedral Choir, conducted by Jack Wilson, Master of Music, accompanied by organist Stephen Hamill.

Sally Cotter, Connor Diocesan President, read the Mothers' Union Aims and Objectives.

The special speaker was June Butler MBE, All-Ireland President, who is in the final year of her six years in office.

In her address, Mrs Butler applied aspects of both the New Testament reading of Jesus giving the Samaritan woman

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water at Jacob's well and the Offertory Hymn, Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, to the current Mothers' Union theme of Transformation – Now!

She pointed out that many lives were transformed by the 'testimony, judgment and intellect' of the nameless woman, despised and outcast even by her own people.

Mrs Butler said the encounter of the woman with Jesus presented Mothers' Union members with a model to exemplify Christ in transformative work in words and actions, even in apparently very simple ways.

In conclusion, Mrs Butler referred to the hymn, Guide me ..., the words of which, she said, held a deep personal meaning for her. She used some short prayers based on the hymn's three verses to illustrate further the possibility of members effecting transformation in many areas of life.

Coincidentally Sally Cotter is also in the final year of her six years as Connor Diocesan President.

Speaking after the service, Mrs Cotter said it had been, as always, 'such an uplifting occasion,' adding that it represented 'the high point of the Mothers' Union year, bringing members together in worship, thanksgiving and fellowship from across the diocese in a lovely setting.'

Report by the Rev Clifford Skillen : Photographs courtesy of Noel Jenkins

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Catholic Chaplaincy QUB official partner of Kintsugi Hope

The Catholic Chaplaincy QUB is now an official partner of Kintsugi Hope. Kintsugi Hope is a charity whose aim is to serve the church and local community by seeking to create safe and supportive spaces, and a world where mental and emotional health is understood and accepted.



Director of Campus Ministry, Shannon, has undertaken training in recent weeks to become a certified Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Group Leader.

This time of year can be stressful for students. "Know that Chaplaincy is here for you. Our first Wellbeing Group takes place on Wednesday 1st May at 7pm over dinner in Mosaic Cafe. All students are welcome".

Belfast Jewish Community meet in the City Hall

“Yesterday at City Hall I hosted a group of people with family connections to the Jewish community in Belfast, many from England”, Jeffery Dudgeon writes

Steven Jaffe of the Northern Ireland Friends of Israel led the group and spoke to them at the portrait of Sir Otto Jaffe who was Belfast's first Jewish Lord Mayor (twice).

I reminded them of the most recent Jewish Councillor, Harold Smith, who represented part of North Belfast up to the 1970s. He was a member of the Ulster Unionist Party.

Cllr. Nizza Fluss from Barnet is photographed below with Steven in the chamber. It was also a sad moment as I had to convey my condolences and those of all Councillors in relation to the terrible murders in the Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday.

On Thursday night a motion on anti-semitism will coincidentally be discussed in council. It reads “In recognition of the 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht, 9th-10th November 1938, this Council follows the example shown by other public bodies in the United Kingdom and adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, which is:

‘Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical

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manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'

Furthermore, the Council agrees that this definition and associated examples of anti-Semitism, published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on 26th May 2016, are fully incorporated into this Council's Good Relations strategy and associated policies."

Support for Amman Valley school from church next door

The Bishop of St Davids has expressed his deep concern following a stabbing incident at a school in Carmarthenshire on Wednesday.

Rt Rev Dorrien Davies says his thoughts and prayers are with the injured and the staff, pupils and families of everyone affected.

Amman Valley Comprehensive remained closed after two teachers and a pupil were injured. A teenage girl is in custody. She is alleged to have stabbed two students and a teacher.

All Saints Church in Amman Ford is next to the school, and it's been providing pastoral support and tea and coffee to the community, which is said to be in shock.

Its vicar, Rev Alison Reeves, who has only been in post for two weeks, said: "I'm still getting to know our community, but

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like many Welsh towns, it's an ex-mining community, and it's very close-knit. I don't think there's anybody here who doesn't have a connection with the school and to see the parents outside yesterday afternoon, the anxiety and the panic was palpable. It was just a very worrying time for everybody in the community.

When she first heard there had been an incident, Rev Alison raced to the church.

"We're lucky to have a church just feet away from the school boundary. So we were able to be here to offer support to the parents. We've had our doors open, the doors are open again, today and tomorrow for anybody who wants to come up and just spend some quiet time, to light a candle, to have somebody pray with them."

The vicar is asking people to pray for the community at this time: "It's a huge trauma for those we were talking to. It's a huge trauma for those who were physically injured, but it's actually a huge trauma for our whole community. The ripples from this will envelop the whole community - the families of those that were injured, the girl herself and her family. We pray for how they must be feeling because that girl's life is changed forever. And so we will be praying for everybody who's involved in this incident, and we're praying for our community.

"We would love prayer for people to see where God is in this. He is here, and we want people to feel his presence."

Funding granted for eight heritage projects in Cork

Eight archaeological heritage projects in Cork County are set to receive over €420,000 in funding which will enable conservation works and improve presentation, Sally Gorman writes in the Irish Examiner.

It is also hoped that the funding will build resilience in monuments, enabling them to better withstand the effects of climate change.

Successful Co Cork projects include five archaeological sites owned by Cork County Council.

St Mary's Collegiate Church in Youghal will receive €100,000, and Kilgullane Church and Graveyard in Fermoy will receive €82,396.65 for conservation works.

Both Bandon Town Wall and Castlefreke Church of Ireland in Rathbarry, will receive €30,000 respectively, also for conservation works.

And Templebreedy Graveyard near, Crosshaven, will see improved signage to the sum of €29,790.

A further three archaeological sites in the county will also receive funding. Castlevew Mills Complex near Clonakilty will receive €100,000 for conservation works.

Saint Colman's Cathedral in Cloyne will benefit from a conservation management plan to the sum of €30,000, and

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Saint Abbán's Ecclesiastical Site in Baile Bhuirne will also receive a conservation management plan worth €19,680.

The funding has been allocated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the 2024 Community Monuments Fund and will be administered locally by Cork County Council.

The fund was originally established in 2020 to conserve, maintain, protect, and promote local archaeological monuments and historic sites.

Welcoming the allocations, Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr Frank O'Flynn said: "Since it first commenced, the Community Monuments Fund has supported some excellent projects in Co Cork.

"Not only does the scheme support the upkeep of the county's precious archaeological heritage, it also encourages local groups to get involved.

"The awarding of over €400,000 under this year's scheme will support some excellent projects."

Cork County Council CEO Valerie O'Sullivan added: "This year's Community Monuments Fund allocation for eight different projects hints at the depth of archaeological heritage in the county, supporting projects from churches and to an industrial mill complex amongst others.

"Since 2020, the county has seen an investment of over €1.33m through the scheme and it will continue to support

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the preservation of some 19,000 archaeological monuments in the county of Cork.”

Court and personal



Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

April 17, 2024. HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Kent in his role as Patron of the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, attended a Reception to celebrate the renovation of Blackheath Halls in South London.

During the visit, His Royal Highness met those who had supported the redevelopment and watched performances by Sir Bryn Terfel (Next page) and the Blackheath Halls Youth Choir.



Birthday photograph of Prince Louis

Royal correspondents had been wondering whether there would be a birthday photograph of Prince Louis this week.

The son of the Prince and Princess of Wales turned six years old on Tuesday. Photographs of Prince George, Prince Louis and Princess Charlotte are often released to mark their birthdays and other special occasions.

The snaps are aimed at royal fans and newspaper front pages.

The official social media posts wishing Louis a happy birthday have been liked over a million times

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Appointment of Dean of Lincoln

The King has approved the nomination of The Reverend Canon Dr Simon Jones, Chaplain and Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, to be appointed as Dean of Lincoln.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, has announced her retirement

She said: “The greatest joy has been to share in the relationship between God and God’s people through pastoral care, preaching, teaching and sacramental ministries and advocate for justice and compassion for all,”

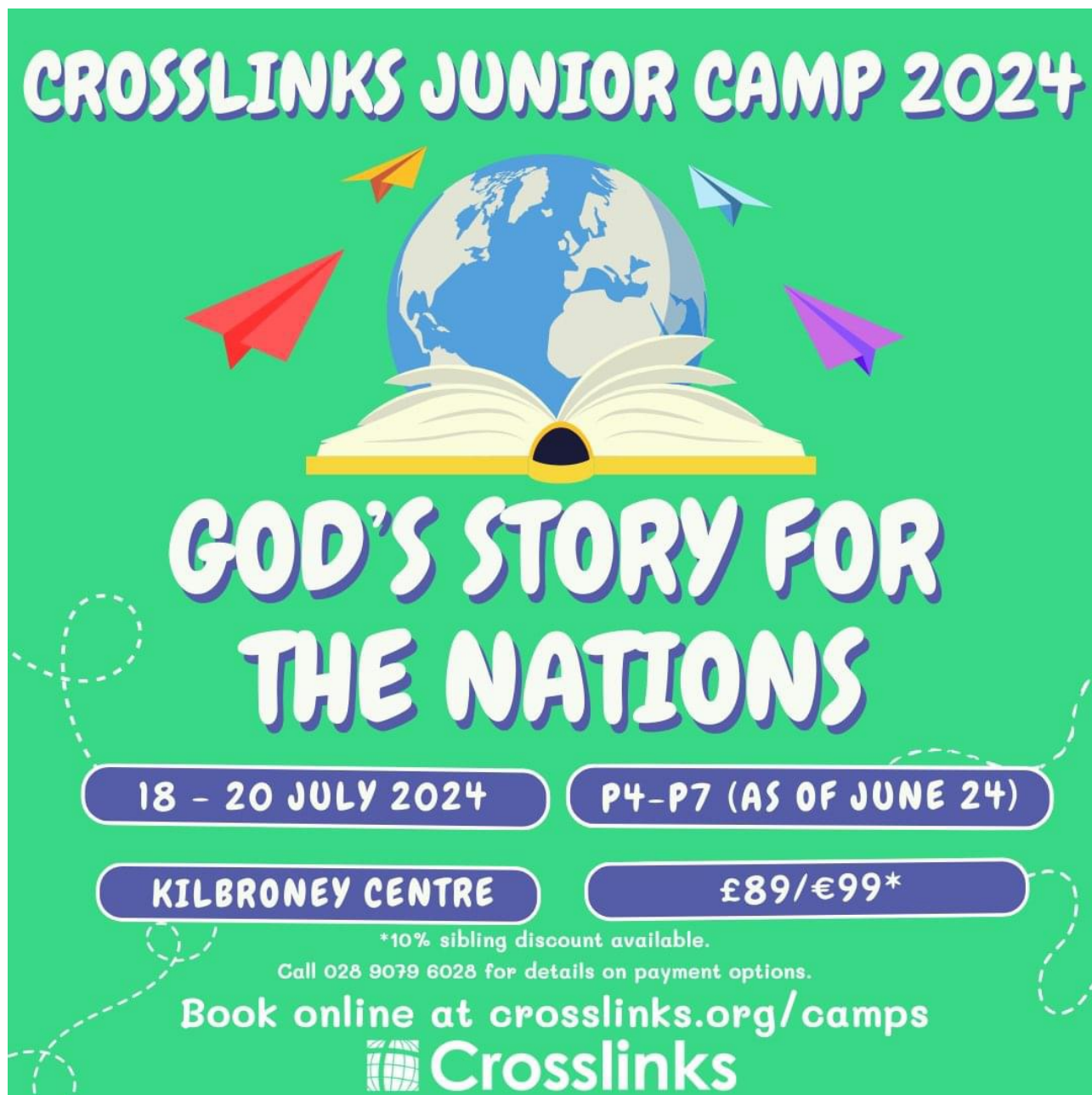
Read the full announcement: <https://bit.ly/3vOxCd7>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Crosslinks Camps 2024 - BOOK NOW

Booking for Crosslinks Camps in 2024 is now open.

“You are in for a real treat with our activities at camps 2024 With water fights, sports, arts & crafts, campfires and talent shows you’ll not want to miss it! But most of all we are looking forward to seeing children and young people grow in God's word and see how they can play a part in global mission”. Here are the details for Crosslinks Camps 2024:

A vibrant green poster for 'CROSSLINKS JUNIOR CAMP 2024'. At the top, the title is written in large, white, bubbly letters with a blue outline. Below the title is a central illustration of a globe with four colorful paper airplanes (red, orange, blue, purple) flying around it. An open book with a yellow cover and white pages is positioned at the bottom of the globe. The main title 'GOD'S STORY FOR THE NATIONS' is written in large, white, bubbly letters with a blue outline. Below this, there are four rounded rectangular boxes containing the dates '18 - 20 JULY 2024', the age group 'P4-P7 (AS OF JUNE 24)', the venue 'KILBRONEY CENTRE', and the cost '£89/€99*'. A small note below the cost box says '*10% sibling discount available.' and 'Call 028 9079 6028 for details on payment options.' At the bottom, it says 'Book online at crosslinks.org/camps' and features the Crosslinks logo, which is a globe icon followed by the word 'Crosslinks' in a white, sans-serif font.

Junior Camp: God's Story for the Nations

Date: 18th - 20th July 2024

Venue: Kilbroney Centre

Speaker: Suzie Parkes (Children and Families Worker - Waringstown Presbyterian)

Cost: £89/€99 (10% sibling discount available)

Senior Camp: Blessed – The Joy of Hearing in the Book of Revelation

Date: 20th - 25th July 2024

The poster features a dark blue background with a pattern of light blue circuit-like lines. At the top, the text 'CROSSLINKS SENIOR CAMP 2024' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this is a large cyan circle containing an orange audio waveform graphic. Underneath the circle, the word 'BLESSED' is written in very large, bold, orange, sans-serif capital letters. Below 'BLESSED', the text 'The joy of hearing in the book of Revelation' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. This is followed by '20 - 25 JULY 2024 ● KILBRONEY CENTRE' and '£189/€215 ● FOR 12 - 17 YEAR OLDS*' in white. Below that is '10% SIBLING DISCOUNT ● CALL 028 9079 6028' and 'FOR DETAILS ON PAYMENT OPTIONS' in white. A small line of text reads '*CAMPERS MUST BE IN YEAR 8 BY JUNE 2024 & NO OLDER THAN 17 DURING CAMP'. Below this is 'BOOK ONLINE AT [CROSSLINKS.ORG/CAMPS](https://crosslinks.org/camps)' in white. At the bottom, there is a small globe icon followed by the 'Crosslinks' logo in white.

Venue: Kilbroney Centre

Speaker: Rev Ross Mungavin (Associate Minister for the South Belfast Inner Mission Area)

Cost: £189/€215 (10% sibling discount available)

For more information or to book a place visit:

www.crosslinks.org/camps

Open Day Belfast Bible College

Tuesday 30th April 10.30am

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**Are you thinking about studying theology next year?
Would you like to learn in a vibrant, mission-focused,
interdenominational community?**

“At our college, you can experience a dynamic curriculum that blends academics with practical training and spiritual growth. Our courses cover a wide range of theological topics, providing a comprehensive understanding of scripture, history, ethics, and more.

“At the open day you can: Learn more about our courses/
Hear from our Principal/ Tour our campus and facilities/ Chat with students, faculty and staff/Get answers in Q&A sessions/ Enjoy refreshments and networking.”

RSVP essential.

<https://www.belfastbiblecollege.com/open-evening>

In the media

Pope goes prime time and does first US TV network interview - CatholicHerald

Pope Francis has done his first extended one-on-one interview with a US TV network in the course of his 11-year papacy.

The 87-year-old Pope on 24 April did an interview in Rome with news anchor Norah O’Donnell of CBS (the abbreviation of Columbia Broadcasting System), one of the main commercial broadcast television and radio networks in the United States.

In the interview the Pope “shared his insights on the state of the world” and spoke about “war, peace, famine and climate change”, O’Donnell says in a short CBS promotional video.

Portions of the “ground-breaking” interview aired on the CBS Evening News on Wednesday night, while a longer version is scheduled for the famous “60 Minutes” show, followed by an hour-long CBS prime-time special to be aired on May 20.

The CBS interview focuses on the upcoming World Day for Children, reports Crux. This is set to take place in the Vatican 25-26 May, and is being organised by Franciscan Father Enzo Fortunato, recently tapped by Francis as the first-ever spokesman for St. Peter’s Basilica.

The Pope spoke about the negative consequences of war on children, referring in particular to Ukraine and repeating a point he’s made often in the past:

“Those kids don’t know how to smile,” the Pope said. “I tell them something, but they forgot how to smile. And this is very hard when a child forgets to smile. That’s really very serious. Very serious.”

After being asked if he had a message for Vladimir Putin in regard to the war in Ukraine, he broadened his answer to apply it to all countries at war, including Gaza, repeating his insistent calls for a cease fire there and saying that “a negotiated peace is better than a war without end”, Crux reports.

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Earlier in the conversation, Francis was asked what he thinks about those who describe the violence in Gaza as a “genocide”. The pontiff simply repeated the term, Crux notes, then described how he makes a call to the lone Catholic parish in Gaza every evening at around 7 p.m., Rome time, for an update, adding that recently he’d heard how people are fighting over the limited food supplies that reach the area.

Francis largely brushed off concerns about his physical condition, saying: “My health is good.” He also took on climate change sceptics.

“There are people who are foolish, and foolish even if you show them research, they don’t believe it,” he said. “Why, because they don’t understand the situation, or because of their interest, but climate change exists.”

Questioned about declining numbers for the Catholic Church in the United States, Francis responded with a version of his classic “room for everybody” response.

“I would say that there is always a place, always. If in this parish the priest doesn’t seem welcoming, I understand, but go and look elsewhere, there is always a place,” Francis said.

“Do not run away from the Church. The Church is very big. It’s more than a temple...you shouldn’t run away from her.”

The Pope also discussed how the Catholic Church must balance its rules about abortion, gay marriage and

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contraception with the need to be more welcoming, says the CBS website.

During the hour-long interview, the Pope spoke in Spanish with his responses translated into English by an interpreter.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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