

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day



A performance with a difference

Grosvenor with The Royal Belfast Academical Institution and 3 others, last Monday evening had a performance with a difference.

Rather than our audience sitting and listening to us perform some pieces, they joined with us. We were glad that music students from Portadown College, Grosvenor Grammar School, Carrickfergus Grammar School, The Royal Belfast Academical Institution, Bangor Grammar School, Belfast High School, Hunterhouse College, Ballyclare High School - Official and St Louis Grammar School Ballymena all came along, mixing with each other as sopranos sat with sopranos, altos either altos, tenors with tenors and basses with basses.

Within a couple of hours we had worked through and performed:

For The Beauty Of The Earth (Rutter)

Hear My Prayer (Mendelssohn) with solo performed by Susan Shepherd

Zadok The Priest (Handel)

The Record Of John (Gibbons) with solo performed by Sarah Bell

Kyrie (Byrd - 5 part mass)

Agnus Dei (Chilcott - jazz mass)

A Clare Benediction (Rutter)

Thank you to the music teachers who gave of their time to bring their students, to Darren Day for piano accompaniments and to those who helped behind the scenes to make the evenings possible. All will enjoy a well-

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deserved rest for
Half Term.

News

Ballywillan generosity to Christian Aid Ireland



Christian Aid Ireland is hugely grateful to a County Antrim congregation for their recent donation of almost £4,500.

The members of Ballywillan Presbyterian Church in Portrush held a church collection at Harvest time when our Church and Community Officer, Kaye Steele came along to talk about the impact of a farming project she witnessed during a recent visit to Zimbabwe.

Special thanks go to our representative at Ballywillan, Sandra Carruthers (right), pictured here with Kaye.

Please join us in saying a massive thank you to Ballywillan for their generosity.

Fr Bartlett: religious freedom among most threatened of all human rights

On Sunday, 9 February, Mass was broadcast from the RTÉ studios in Donnybrook, Dublin, and offered for the plight of persecuted Christians everywhere. The celebrant was Father Tim Bartlett of the Diocese of Down and Connor.

The congregation was joined by the president of the international charity Aid to the Church in Need, Regina Lynch, originally from Tyrone, who spoke before the Mass of how the charity serves Christians facing persecution around the world on a daily basis.

During his homily Father Bartlett, who also serves as ACN Ireland ecclesiastic assistant, said, “respect for the right to religious freedom is the cornerstone of a genuinely diverse, pluralist and free society. Sadly, despite the welcome progress in respect for so many other areas of human rights in the world today, research shows that respect for the right to religious freedom is under increasing threat, even in countries which pride themselves as being exemplars of respect for tolerance and diversity.”

Father Bartlett highlighted that many Irish believers experience “so-called ‘polite persecution’, where any public display or conversation about religious conviction is considered politically and culturally impolite. The right to religious freedom is among the most threatened of all human rights in the world today.”

The celebration was complemented by the outstanding De La Salle Waterford secondary school boys’ choir who cantored during the Mass, and gratitude was expressed to

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Brother Ben and all the support staff of De La Salle for the quality of the sacred music.

The Mass is currently available for viewing on the RTÉ Player.

Cathedral Calls

Installation of Canons in Lisburn Cathedral



Lisburn Cathedral's new Canons, the Rev Canon David Ferguson and the Rev Canon Andrew Sweeney, will be installed in the Chapter of St Saviour at 3.30pm on Sunday March 9.

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David is rector of Ramoan and Culfeightrin, and Andrew is rector of Ballymoney, Finvoy and Rasharkin.



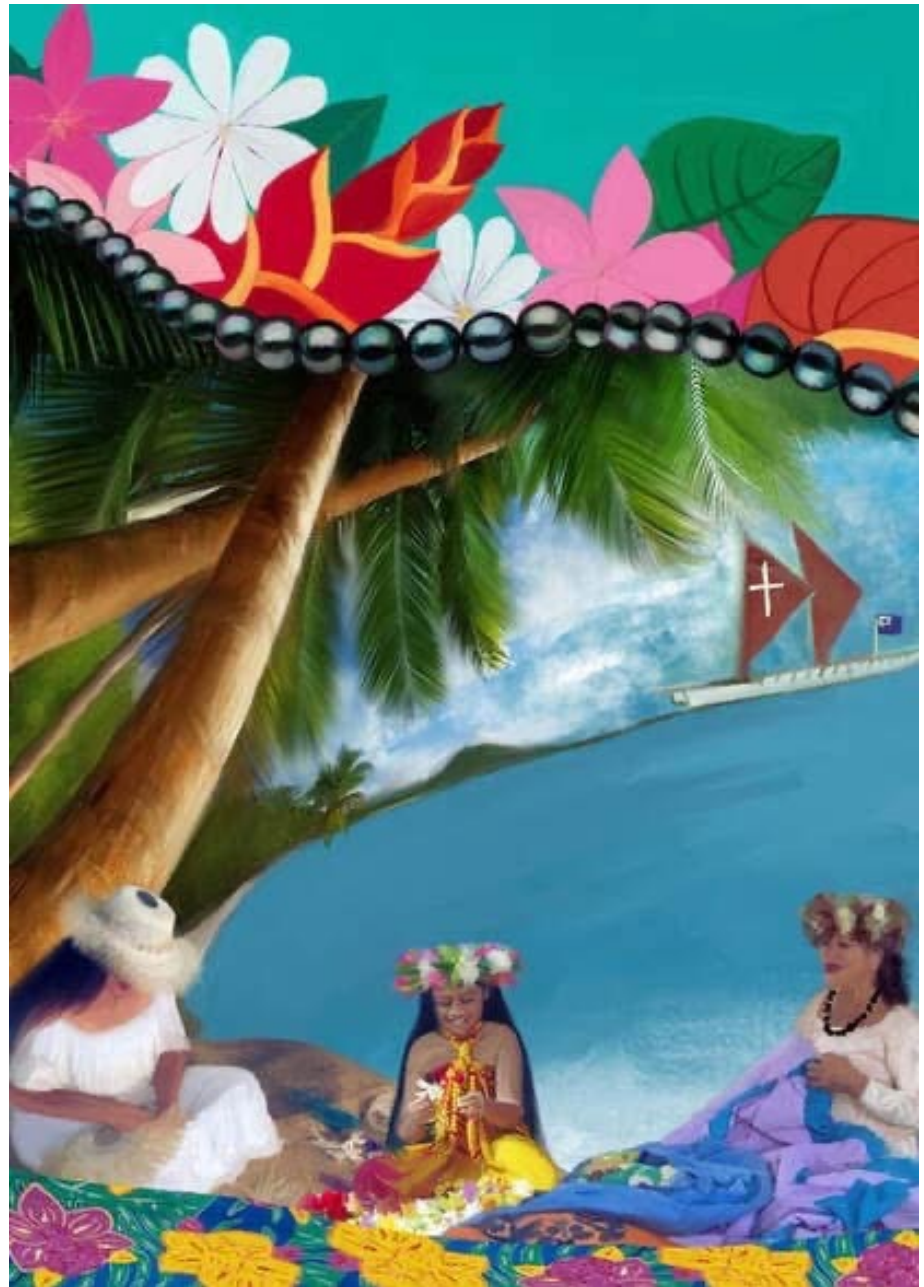
Their appointments to the Chapter of Lisburn Cathedral were announced by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, in January.

Women's World Day of Prayer St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry

Women's World Day of Prayer - a women-led, global ecumenical movement will be observed in the Foyle area, this year, with a service in St Eugene's Cathedral at 6pm on Friday 7th March. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme, 'I made you wonderful'.

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The Day of Prayer is celebrated in more than 120 countries and this year's service has been prepared by Christian women in the Cook Islands, a group of 15 islands in the south Pacific. The liturgy is based on the words of Psalm 139. The service will be woven with stories of three women from the Cook



Islands reminding the congregation that God created us, God knows us and God is with us.

Leckpatrick Parish church is hosting the service for the Strabane area at 8pm on Friday the 7th of March. This will be the first year that Leckpatrick will have hosted such an event and all of the main Christian churches in the Strabane area - including Christ Church Strabane - will come together for the service.

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Incidentally, the artwork for this year (see) was designed by Tarani Napa and Tevairangi Napa – a mother and daughter from the Cook Islands. It depicts how their islands have been blessed by God and the vital role played by women in keeping the islanders' heritage and traditions alive.

You can find more information at wwdp.org.uk

Change of Ringing Master in Saint Patrick's Cathedral

On Tuesday 28 January the AGM of The Society of Bellringers of Saint Patrick's Cathedral was held in the Deanery. It was most encouraging that there was an attendance of almost forty members.

The Dean was delighted to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr Derek McEndoo who has completed ten years and Ringing Master in the Tower. Derek has been faithful, conscientious, and dedicated in this important role, and is ever willing, gracious, helpful and meticulous in all his undertakings. It was fitting that members of the Society presented Derek with some gifts as well. "We offer Derek our heartfelt thanks for everything which he has done for the Cathedral and in the advancement of bellringing."

Congratulations to Mr Robert MacDonald who has been elected as Ringing Master in succession to Derek. Robert has given faithful service over many years.

SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN

Be a Chorister

for an afternoon



*We've been doing this for 600 years!
Why not come and join us for an afternoon?*

If you've a child currently in 2nd or 3rd class that enjoys singing,
they could become a Chorister and enjoy the benefits of a
first class education in Ireland's only Choir School.

SUNDAY 2 MARCH 1.00-4.00pm*
www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/sing

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER FOR FREE | NB MORE DATES TO FOLLOW.....

Clergy and ministry

New Ecumenical Officer in the Diocese of Cork



The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton has announce that the Rev. Canon Alan Marley has been appointed as the new Ecumenical Officer in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

Alan will take up this position alongside his role as Church of Ireland Chaplain at University College Cork.

On his appointment, Canon Marley said:

I am grateful for the trust that the Bishop has placed in me, and the opportunity to build upon the faithful work done by Canon Nuzum over his many years as Ecumenical Officer for the diocese. Unity and reconciliation are at the heart of all discipleship and to be involved with other Christian denominations as a representative for Cork, Cloyne and Ross is both an honour and pleasure.

The role of the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer is to encourage and resource members of the Diocese in their ecumenical relationships and ministry with other Christians. Alan will also act as ecumenical advisor to the Bishop and represent the Church of Ireland at various ecumenical functions and ceremonies.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Explore east Belfast during Half Term break...there is lots to see and do!

Take a walk in one of our parks or open spaces along Connswater Community Greenway including the beautiful Cregagh Glen

Visit Templemore Baths heritage space taking a self guided tour or why not book in to one of our guided tours

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For football fans, you can book a stay or tour at George Best House

Why not download one of our self guided tours including C.S. Lewis, Van Morrison or George Best and explore east Belfast on foot



For more information, visit www.visiteastside.com, Visit EastSide or why not pop in to EastSide Visitor Centre at C.S. Lewis Square

Cappella Caecilliana to sing in Paris on St Patrick's Weekend 🍀

We are delighted to announce our first-ever visit to France, taking place on St Patrick's Weekend 🍀

On Saturday 15th March, we will present a joint concert FRANCE - IRLANDE with the Choir of Sorbonne University,



in the historic (1690) Église Notre-Dame des Blancs-Manteaux in central Paris.

The concert will be jointly directed by our Musical Director Matthew Quinn and by Frédéric Pineau, Chef de Choeur at COSU (Choeur & Orchester Sorbonne Université).

Our tour to Paris is sponsored by Energia / Power NI and Aggreko, and supported by the National Lottery Good Causes through Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Details and booking: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cappellacaeciliana/1554534>

Latest fabulous resource from CMSI is ready to launch - be first in line to get it!

To sign up, go to CMS Ireland's website
www.cmsireland.org/childrens-resource

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In this pack you will find 4 sessions exploring how we must go beyond simple handouts or thinking that these issues can be easily solved.

This is a digital resource, with differentiated lesson plans, workbooks, PPTs and videos accompanying each session.

Fair Play: making things right with God today

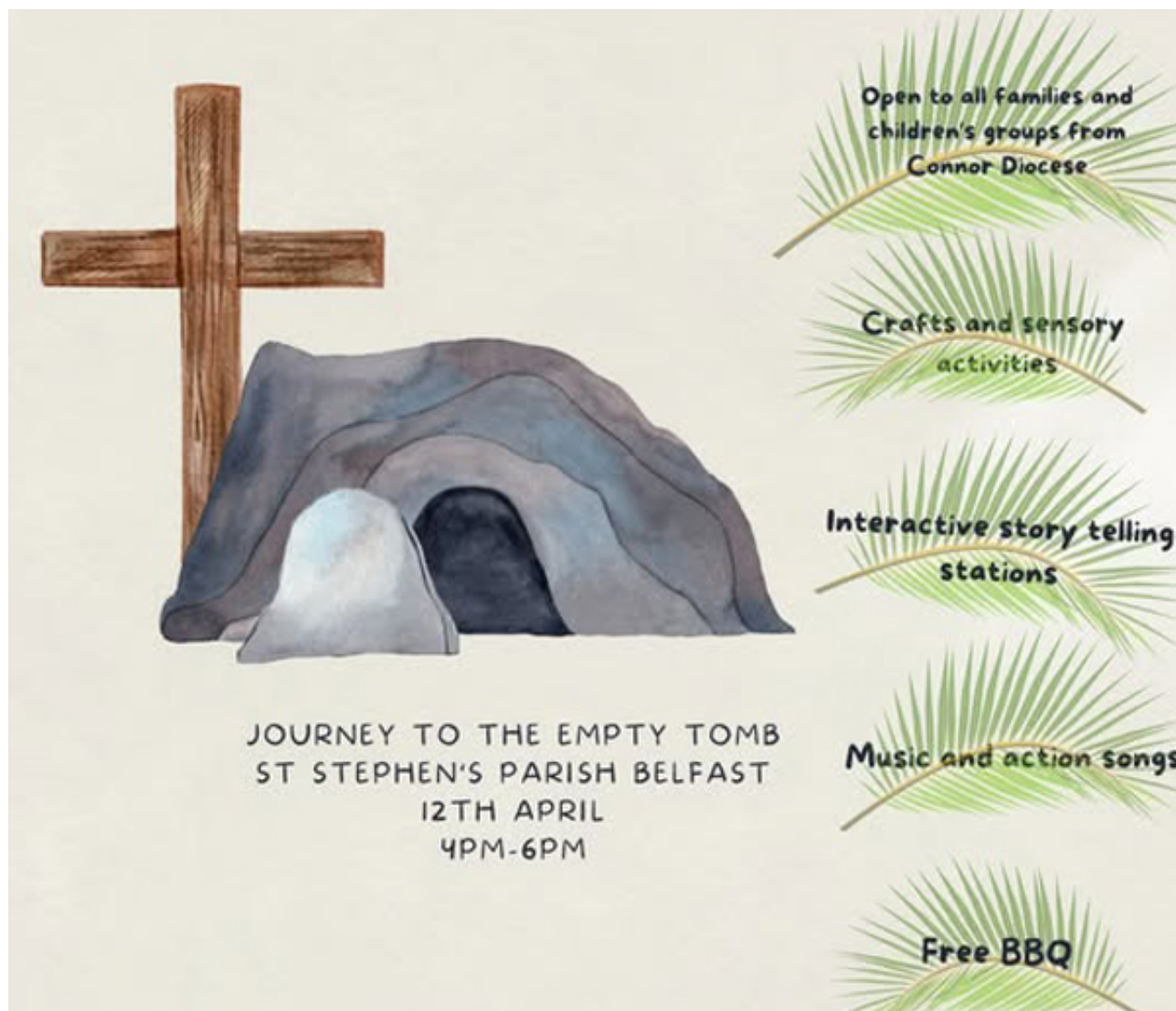
CMSI's new Children's Resource unpacks ideas around fairness and justice. Children will explore how this is a complex area and must go beyond equality for individuals. They will consider matters such as levelling up in both global and local contexts, grounding everything in the Christian call to 'do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God' (Micah 6: 8).

The resource explores four key areas that come out of this verse, using the Bible and examples from some of CMS Ireland's global partners, to consider the issue of fairness and justice. This dual focus on the Bible and their global partners.

<https://www.facebook.com/239169528439033/videos/479813325182617>

Journey to the Empty Tomb

Connor Children's Council is inviting Sunday Schools and families to explore the Easter Story in a new way at a free event taking place on April 12.

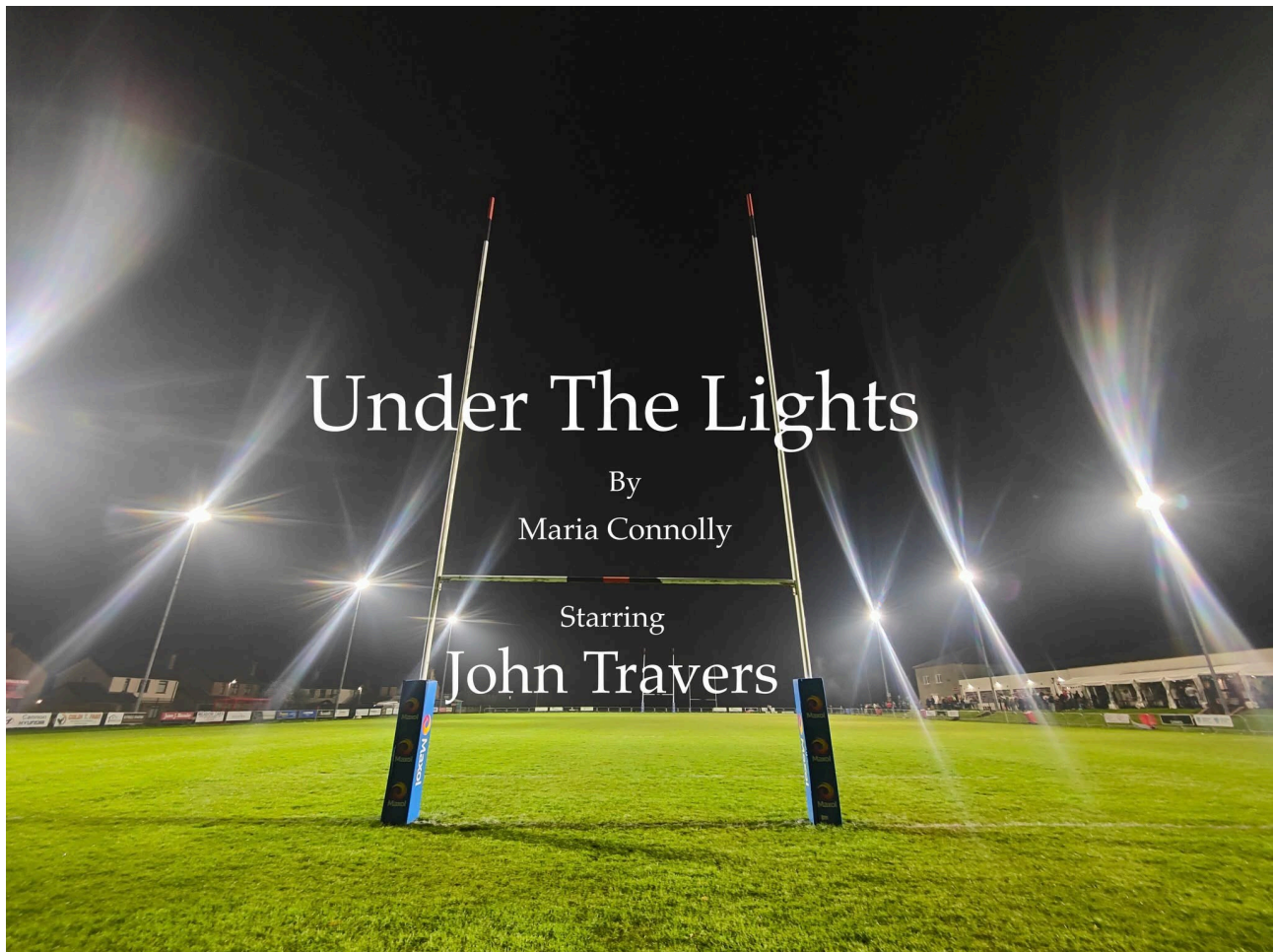


Journey to the Empty Tomb takes place in St Stephen's Parish Church, Belfast, from 4-6pm.

Experience Jesus' journey to the cross and the miracle of his resurrection through sensory activities, crafts and story-telling. Travel around the stations with your family or Sunday School group and be immersed in the wonder of the Journey to the Empty Tomb.

This Easter event will also include a time of kids' praise and a free BBQ.

This is a free event but should be booked in advance via the diocesan web site to allow the organisers to plan for catering.



c21 Theatre Company presents “Under the lights”

Josh Blair was never any good at team sports, that is until he joins Validus Grammar and goes along for a rugby training session and he is hooked!

After four years of school rugby the medallion squad are through to the semi-finals of the Medallion Shield, but in the last few minutes of the game, something is not right, Josh is unsure about going back on, but his team need him, his school needs him, he needs this. Josh takes up his position on the pitch and stands in line, under the lights.

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Themes include safety measures around concussion in contact sports.

'Under The Lights' by Maria Connolly, stars Belfast actor John Travers and will have its world premiere at The MAC Belfast in February 2025 followed by a short national tour of Northern Ireland. c21's Company Manager Fionnuala Fagan-Thiébot will help produce and Stephen Kelly will complete the team by directing the new piece.



Ards Arts Centre



Wed 26 February



7.30pm



£10

Book at: <https://andculture.org.uk/whats-on/under-lights-maria-connolly>

Building for the future

As part of Down & Dromore diocese's commitment to offer practical support to their parishes and church plants, the diocese has planned an evening for churches preparing to embark on a building project for renovations, extensions or new facilities.

Building for the Future will take place on Thursday 6 March at 7.00pm in T3 Conference Centre, House of Vic-Ryn, Moira Road Lisburn. Please note that this event is reserved for churches in the Diocese of Down and Dromore.



The evening will look at:
Establishing a clear vision for your building project.

Fundraising strategies, including events, gift days, and external funding applications.

Understanding permissions and approvals required for church building projects.

A Q&A panel discussion with experienced leaders and experts.

A time of prayer and encouragement for those involved in projects.

“We encourage rectors, church wardens, treasurers, and key leaders involved in building projects to come along.”

To confirm your attendance or for further information please contact kgardiner@downdromorediocese.org.

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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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning

Please recommend to your friends