

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Schools Aid for Romania from Methodist College and St Patrick's College, Maghera

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School Aid Romania from Methodist College and St Patrick's College, Maghera

Methodist College School Aid Romania team travelled to Braşov, Romania last week.

On their leaving morning the team were presented a cheque for their fundraising to date, totalling £26,000 (Front page photo). Thank you for all the donations and support so far.



The pupils enjoyed a lovely breakfast supplied by the college canteen, before boarding the coach to Dublin airport with the staff and pupils from St Patrick's College, Maghera.

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We look forward to sharing their updates over the next week on what they are getting up to and how the donated money is being spent.

If you would like to make a donation, please do so via the School Gateway app or JustGiving:

<https://ow.ly/slol50QuL3v>



Sudan bound missionaries donate household goods to refugees and asylum seekers

With just under 8 weeks to go until Andrew & Joanne Quill depart for mission partner service in Ibba, S. Sudan - volunteers from All Nations Ministries joined them at their home in Killyman to collect donations of household and furniture items.

These generous donations will be given a new home with refugees and asylum seekers arriving in N. Ireland.

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During this time of letting go, remember Andrew & Joanne as they prepare their hearts and minds to leave family and friends in Ireland. Pray for God's comfort and strength.



Invite to worship at Union Theological College

Nigel Craig minister and Chaplain at Union Theological College says -

“If you've haven't yet been to a Sunday

evening Chapel service at Union Theological College, we'd love to welcome you, 7pm, on Sundays.

“These services are for students, staff, and anyone who might be interested”.

Newtownabbey Bible Week tremendously encouraging

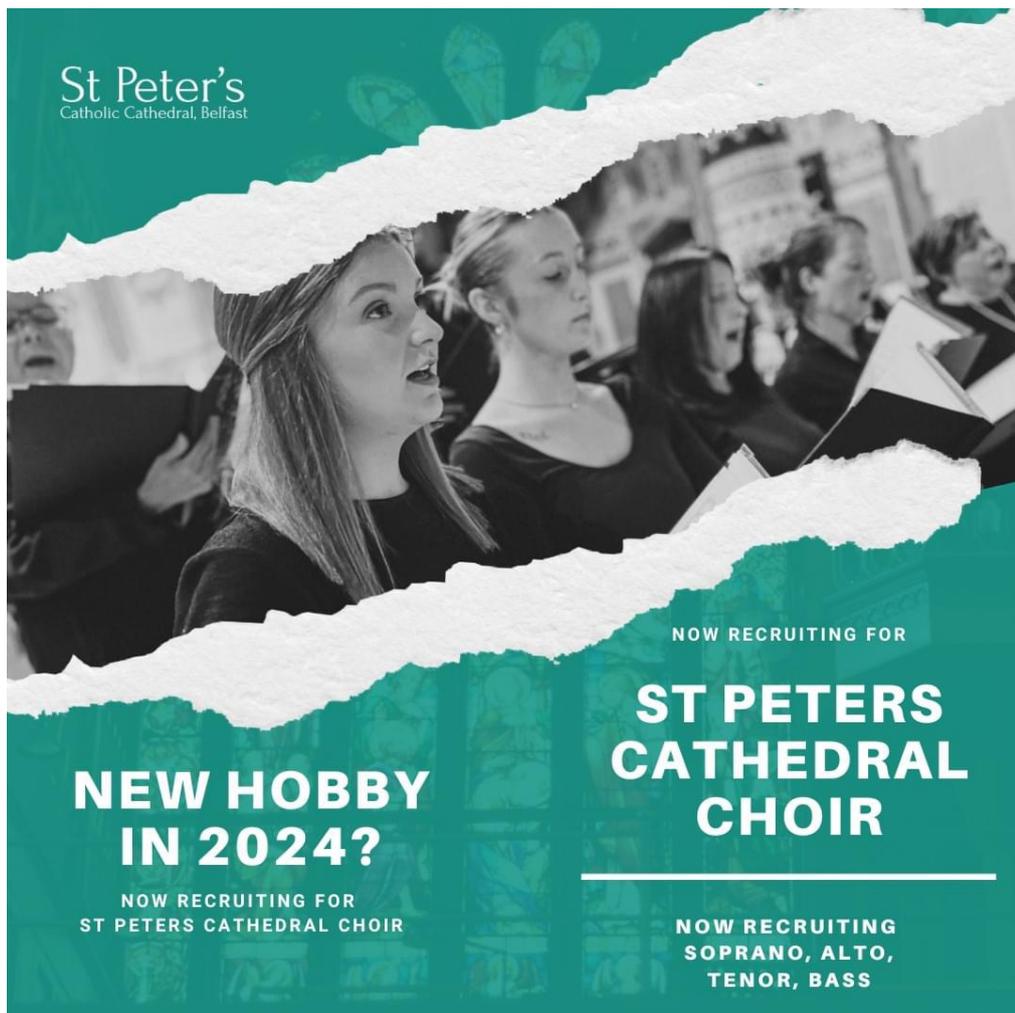
Newtownabbey Bible Week was a tremendously encouraging occasion as Christians from many churches in the area gathered together every night in

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Mossley Primary School for worship, teaching and fellowship together.

Rick Hill preached every evening on "Church on the Move" as "we learnt lessons from the early church in Acts which will enable us as churches to be on the move ourselves this year as we seek to serve God in our local communities. We look forward to other joint events together this year beginning with our Easter Sunrise service at Belfast Zoo on 31st March.

Choral invite from Saint Peter's Cathedral Parish Belfast



St Peter's
Catholic Cathedral, Belfast

NEW HOBBY
IN 2024?

NOW RECRUITING FOR
ST PETERS
CATHEDRAL
CHOIR

NOW RECRUITING
SOPRANO, ALTO,
TENOR, BASS

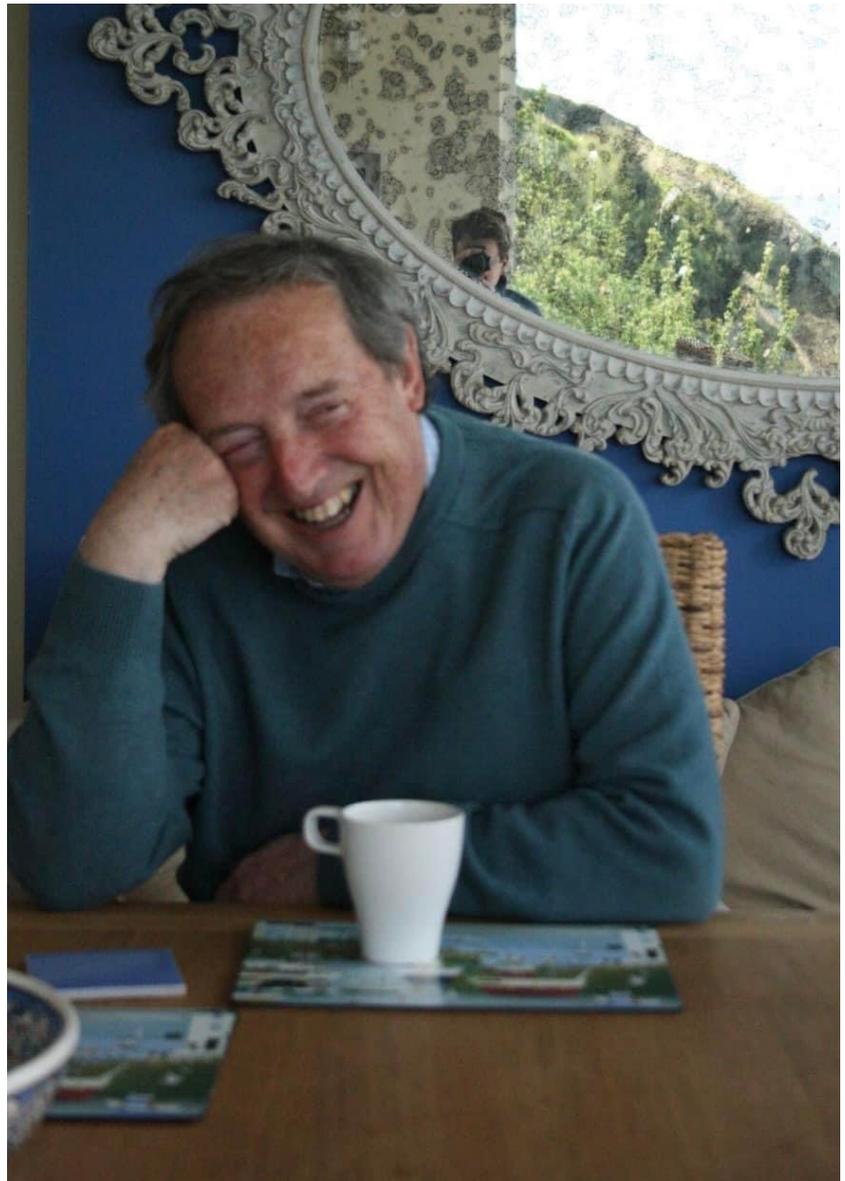
“Are you looking for a new hobby in 2024?”

“Why not join our Cathedral Choir? Laugh, sing, and meet new people! No prior experience needed”.

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+Canon Mervyn Dickson

The death took place peacefully at hospital on January 22 of Canon Mervyn Dickson. His funeral will be held in Down Parish Church, Downpatrick today Monday 29th January at 11.00am.



Mervyn was ordained deacon in 1966 and served curacies in Ballyholme and Knockbreda. He became incumbent of Clonallon and Warrenpoint in the Diocese of Dromore in 1975 before moving back to Down Diocese in 1984 and the incumbency of Down and Hollymount. In 1991 Mervyn joined the chapter of Down Cathedral as Prebendary of St Andrew. He retired in 2006.

Canon Dickson gave extensive service to the church's role in education. He served on several boards of management, the Diocesan Board of Education and was a C of I Transferrer Representative on the South East Education and Library Board.

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Canon Dickson was the dearly beloved husband of Ann and much loved father of Penny, father-in-law of Paul and papa of Emma, Patrick and Samuel, and dear brother of Jennifer.

Donations may be made in lieu of flowers if desired to Chest, Heart and Stroke Association c/o Charles Rourke and Sons, Funeral Directors, 51 Church Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6EH.

+The Revd Conor Harper SJ

A Tribute from Archbishop Michael Jackson: “We have learned of the death of The Reverend Conor Harper SJ and wish to express our condolences to members of his family, to members of the Jesuit Order and to the community of Clongowes where Conor taught for many years.

“He was passionate about the Clongowes–Portora link between both schools and served the cause of reconciliation actively and tirelessly.

“Conor was a lifelong friend of the Church of Ireland and fearless in his expounding and living a gracious ecumenism. He died fittingly on the culminating day of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.

“In this spirit Conor is known throughout Ireland and worldwide for his advocacy of the cause of The Reverend John Sullivan SJ who in so many ways lived the best of both the Anglican and the Roman Catholic traditions. Conor rejoiced in working for this cause and in the family members

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of John Sullivan whom he met through this.

“We continue to pray with the rest of the Christian world for the unity for which Conor longed.”

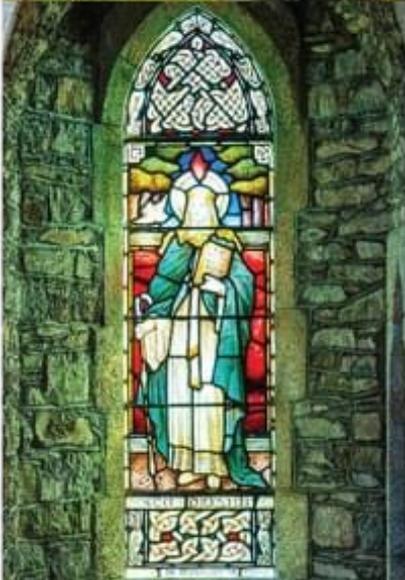


Conor was son of the late Matthew and Josephine. He was redeceased by his sister Marian. He is much loved and deeply missed by his sisters Joan, Toni, Judy and Aine, brother Neil, sister-in-law Eleanor, brother-in-law Paul, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, his Jesuit confrères and a large circle of loyal friends.

Reposing at Cherryfield Lodge, Milltown Park from 3pm today Monday, 29th January, with prayers at 4pm. Funeral Mass in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook, on Tuesday, 30th January, at 11am.

St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare

St Brigid's Tide 2024
Visitor Opening Hours



St Brigid's Cathedral,
Market Square
Kildare
R51 HY65

For further information please
see
www.stbrigidscathedral.com

Saturday 27th January
Sunday 28th January*
Wednesday 31st January
Friday 2nd February
Saturday 3rd February
Monday 5th February

Opening Hours

10:00am - 1:00pm

2:00pm - 5:00pm

**Afternoon only on Sunday*

All are welcome

BRIGID  **1500**

24 Hour Prayer at the Lucan Centre

- **Considering the decision of the General Council of the PCI to sell the entire site of the Lucan Centre to a developer there is to be a session of 24-hour prayer at the Centre, Trevor Morrow posts.**
- We need to know how Presbytery should respond to the decision and to discern the will of God for the ministry and the people involved in this work.
- The prayer pod on the site will be the place of prayer from Tuesday 30th at 7 pm until Wednesday 31st at 7pm.



**ST. CANICE'S
CATHEDRAL**
— AND ROUND TOWER —

St Brigid's Cross

Workshop
01 February 2024

1pm-3pm
€10 per person
All materials supplied

Booking essential, email
manager@stanciescathedral.com

Spaces are limited

- If you can come at any time day or night to pray, please do so.
- If you are beyond travelling distance, please pray with us wherever you are.

News



Anglican and Catholic bishops move from Rome to Canterbury

Anglican and Catholic bishops started their pilgrimage to Canterbury this weekend, with a candlelit tour of Canterbury Cathedral. They walked around the



cathedral in prayer and contemplation, visiting important sites including the altar of Thomas Becket.

The bishops are meeting in pairs, from all around the world, for a conversation about joint mission and witness. It is part of an ecumenical summit called 'Growing Together'. The bishops also met in Rome last week, where their partnerships were commissioned by Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury (Photo above).

Appropriately the Anglican and Catholic bishops whilst in Rome prayed at the Church of San Gregorio al Celio.

The Church of San Gregorio al Celio is the church from where St Augustine was sent to England by Pope Gregory the Great in 597, to be the first Archbishop of Canterbury.



The Archbishop of Canterbury with Pope Francis, prayed these words for the Anglican and Catholic bishops on the site that the apostle Paul was buried.

“God reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. As we send you forth from the tomb of the Apostle to the Nations, we call on you to make this ministry your special care.

“As you preach and celebrate the sacraments with God’s holy people, bear witness to the one hope of your calling. May your ministry alongside one another as Catholics and Anglicans be for the world a foretaste of the reconciling of all Christians in the unity of the one and only Church of Christ for which we pray this day.”

In the media

Female cleric hoping it will be third time lucky in bid to lead Presbyterian Church - Belfast Telegraph

FIVE MINISTERS IN THE RUNNING FOR MODERATOR ROLE WITH THE ELECTION ON FEBRUARY 6

Five ministers are in the running to become the next Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, including a female cleric from Co Down, Brett Campbell writes.

Four of those shortlisted for the top job are based in Northern Ireland, with one candidate from the Republic.

It's one of the largest shortlists to come before the church's 19 regional presbyteries, which will choose the next leader at a meeting on February 6.

Rev Trevor Gribben, clerk of the General Assembly and general secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, is among those who have a chance to become the 179th holder of the highest office.

Rev Richard Kerr, who serves as minister of Templepatrick Presbyterian Church, is also on the ballot, alongside Rev Richard Murray from Drumreagh Presbyterian Church, both in Co Antrim.

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Rev Gary McDowell, from Greystones Presbyterian Church in Co Wicklow, is also in the running.

The list includes **Rev Mairisíne Stanfield** from First Presbyterian Church in Bangor, who was rejected by voters in 2019 and 2020.

She could succeed current Moderator Right Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney, who has been vocal against women ministers.

“My own personal position is that I am not in favour of the ordination of women,” he said after being elected last year.

“That's a position that I hold, but I respect the Presbyterian Church's view and there are people that disagree with me on that.

“I don't want to make it a primary issue, but it is something that I hold.”

Following reforms introduced last year, the next moderator will not be formally elected and installed on the traditional opening night of the General Assembly, which takes place in June, but a short time later.

This year's process will be overseen by deputy clerk, Rev Dr David Allen, because of Rev Gribben's nomination.

“The choice before presbyteries is one of the largest in recent years,” he said.

“In fact, you would have to go back to 2014 when five ministers last let their names go forward.

“The process of choosing who will become the church's senior office bearer and principal public representative starts in the late autumn when presbyteries begin to suggest the names of ministers who they would like to see considered. “In the run-up to Christmas, those on this 'long list' are asked to confirm that they would be willing to have their names go forward.

“Those that do will be considered by presbyteries on February 6.”

The clergyman recalled the first election he participated in back in 1990, when the late Dr Finlay Holmes was selected.

“The process has not changed much since then, in fact it is a relatively straightforward one,” he said.

“The way in which we elect our Moderator is very Presbyterian, in that it is a prayerful and open process, and fundamentally a democratic one as well.

“At the same time, for those of us in Assembly Buildings who administer the process, there is always a great sense of expectation that evening, as the team waits for the phones to ring with each presbytery's vote.”

Any of the ministers on the list of five can be nominated and seconded by members of presbytery on the night of the vote.

In the event of a tie, presbyteries will remain in session and vote again.

Only those who tied in the first round will be eligible for consideration in the next round.

The minister with the support of most of the 19 presbyteries overall will become Moderator-designate and then will be formally nominated for election in June.

“As they wait for the Lord's guidance and continue to prepare their hearts for what may lie ahead, many in our denomination will be praying for our five colleagues, and for the members of presbyteries who seek the Lord's will, as they cast their votes,” Rev Allen said.

“Whoever it may be, I look forward to working with them during their year in office.”

The name of the Moderator-designate should be known by 9pm on Tuesday, February 6.

It will be posted on Presbyterian Church in Ireland's website and communicated across the denomination's social media platforms.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

God's Church in Egypt; Challenges, Calling & Creativity

There is still time to register for this free event:

January 29, 2024

Friday 2 February 2024. 9.30am–1pm
Assembly Buildings, Belfast
www.presbyterianireland.org/Egyptconference

More information on the Keynote speaker:

Dr Anne Zaki grew up in Cairo in a pastor's home. She is married to Rev Naji Umran and they have four sons.

Dr Zaki holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from Calvin University, USA; a Master's degree in Social Psychology from the American University, Cairo; a Master's of Divinity from Calvin Theological Seminary; and a PhD in theology with a concentration on preaching from Fuller Theological Seminary.



Having worked as a resource development specialist, a psychologist and a counsellor, and served together with her husband in churches in Michigan and British Columbia, Dr Zaki has served as a Professor of Preaching and Practical Theology at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt since 2013.

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Dr Zaki will reflect on what God is doing through the church in Egypt today. She will highlight, given the context and challenges encountered, how the church is responding creatively to the call of God.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

No pre-booking required

Friday 2 February 2024

7.30pm in Garnerville Presbyterian Church, Belfast

Sunday, 4 February 2024

11.30am in First Omagh Presbyterian Church

7pm in Glendermott Presbyterian Church, Derry and

Donegal Presbytery event

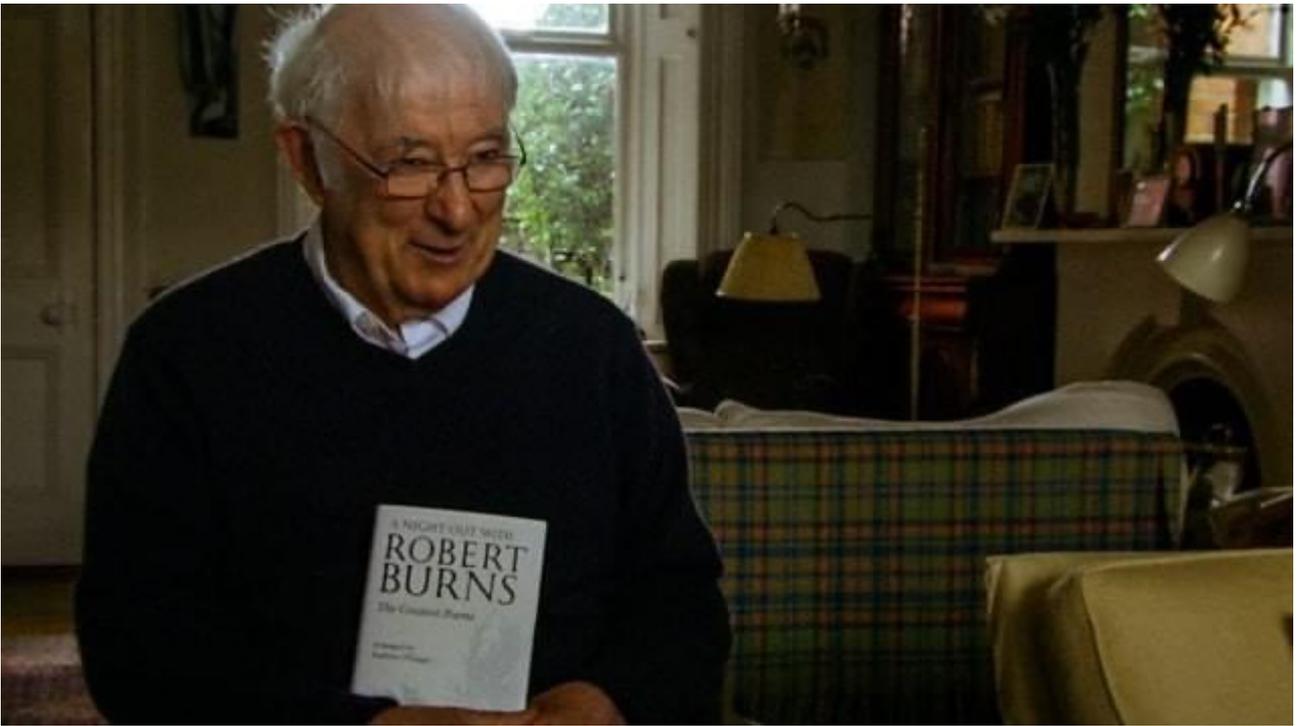
Poem for today

A Birl for Burns

By Seamus Heaney

From the start, Burns' birl and rhythm,
That tongue the Ulster Scots brought wi' them
And stick to still in County Antrim
 Was in my ear.
From east of Bann it westered in
 On the Derry air.

My neighbours toved and bummed and blowed,
They happed themselves until it thowed,
By slaps and stiles they thrawed and tholed
 And snedded thrissles,



And when the rigs were braked and hoed
They'd wet their whistles.

Old men and women getting crabbèd
Would hark like dogs who'd seen a rabbit,
Then straighten, stare and have a stab at
Standard habbie:
Custom never staled their habit
O' quotin' Rabbie.

Leg-lifting, heartsome, lightsome Burns!
He overflowed the well-wrought urns
Like buttermilk from slurping churns,
Rich and unruly,
Or dancers flying, doing turns
At some wild hooley.

For Rabbie's free and Rabbie's big,
His stanza may be tight and trig
But once he sets the sail and rig

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Away he goes
Like Tam-O-Shanter o'er the brig
Where no one follows.

And though his first tongue's going, gone,
And word lists now get added on
And even words like stroan and thrawn
Have to be glossed,
In Burns's rhymes they travel on
And won't be lost.

Image: Seamus Heaney taking part in the BBC Radio Ulster programme "A Birl for Burns"
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09nrx9j>

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
