

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Nendrum

Image of the day

Nendrum

Nendrum Monastic Site near Comber, overlooking Strangford Lough

Nendrum is thought to have been set up by St Machaoi in the 5th Century and also has links to St Patrick in later sources.

It is thought to be the best example of a pre-Norman monastic site in Northern Ireland.

Visit and discover Ards and North Down

News

First Sunday School in Ulster to celebrate 240 years

Almost 240 years ago, the first Sunday School in Ulster opened its doors in Bright Parish in the Diocese of Down.

On Sunday 8 September we're returning to Bright to celebrate the legacy of Sunday School in the Church of Ireland and all those who have taught and teach our children about the Christian faith.

July 27, 2024

We would love at least one Sunday School representative from every parish to join us for a BBQ followed by a commissioning service in Bright Parish Church.

Please contact Millie Bellew for more details and to confirm you are coming on Sunday 8 September (from 5.00-7.00pm).

Tel: 07543478757 or email: millie@downanddromore.org



Methodist College Belfast alumna at her second Olympics

Congratulations to Methodist College Belfast alumna, Rebecca Shorten, on her incredible achievement of qualifying for her second Olympics.

Her fellow Collegians are bursting with pride for all her determination and perseverance and would like to wish Rebecca and her team, all the best this weekend!

July 27, 2024

If you would like to find out more about Rebecca's journey, follow this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/rowing/articles/c5111r6v9yko#:~:text=A%20school%20science%20lab%20after,for%20a%20medal%20in%20Paris>



Carmoney Parish Church litter pick

“Our latest litter pick took place tonight around Church Road, the Valley and Whiteabbey. Lots of litter was lifted and we all enjoyed a cup of tea at the end in the church hall. Our next litter pick will be on Tuesday 27th August at 7pm”.

Mountsandel Community Garden popular

Isabelle Murphy and Joanna Gibson run a community garden in Coleraine called Mountsandel Community Garden .

Joanna says - “Every Tuesday a group of us meet up to do some gardening. Half way through the morning we have a coffee time where people come for a cuppa and homemade goodies including various kinds of jam made with the berries



July 27, 2024

we pick at Claggan Fruit farm. Everyone always loves the jam.

“Everyone is very welcome to pop into the garden any time or come on a Tuesday morning.”

FORGE Mission Team see God at work in Hungary



The FORGE mission team from Down & Dromore are on their way to Budapest after serving at a Christian camp in Szarvas, Hungary.

They have worked hard in very hot weather.

The team of eight has been led by the diocesan FORGE Coordinator Janine Armstrong and FORGE Apprentice, Grayce Turton.

The group have developed strong bonds as they've studied God's Word, prayed together, and shared Jesus with the young people of Szarvas.

July 27, 2024

Janine said: “On the final day of camp Grayce delivered a fabulous talk about how Jesus is King and Owen did the leaders’ hot seat where he shared his story. We had games as usual and chose a really upbeat worship song to finish camp with singing and dancing!

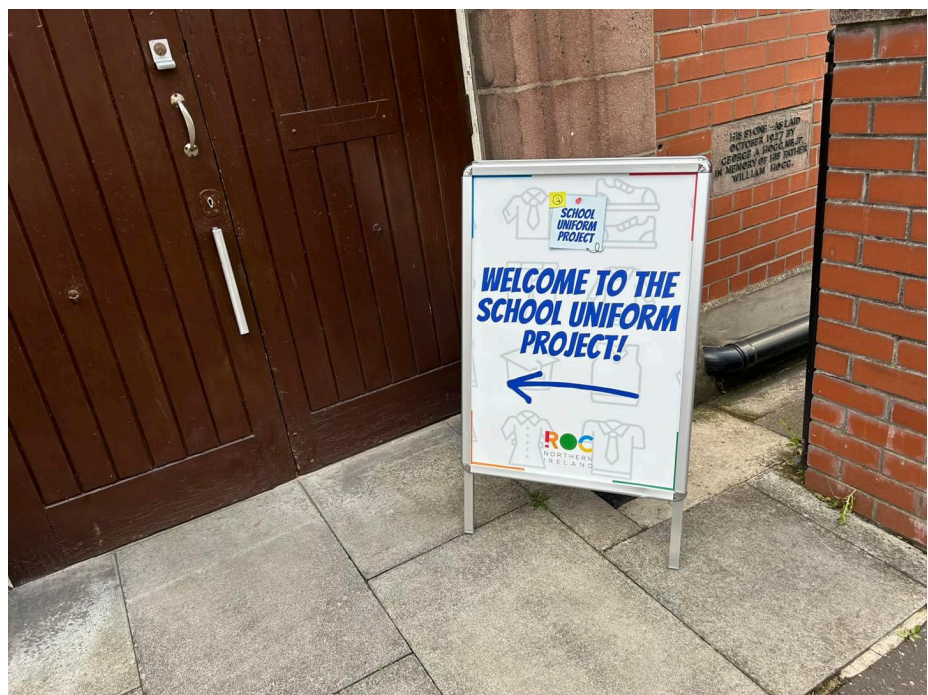
"We have learnt so much about Hungarian culture and adjusted to the hot weather (with the help of lots of cold drinks and ice lollies).

"It's been thrilling to see young people make decisions to follow Jesus. God has been using these young adults to bless the church and community and teaching them about leadership.

"Thank you for your prayers. Please continue to pray for us as we sightsee in Budapest and travel home.”

142 young people helped in a day by church School Uniform Project

The Alexandra Presbyterian





church team helped 142 children and young people get some uniform items for the new term, but they still have a lot of stuff left!

The team says -

Call in today between 3-7 to get any items you need, free of charge.

We have school blazers available for:
Integrated College Glengormley
Abbey Community College
Boys Model
Girls Model
BRA
Belfast High

July 27, 2024

Harberton Ballyclare High

We also have jumpers, PE kits and other branded clothes for most of the schools mentioned above with a lot of Boys and Girls Model.



We have school jumpers for:
Seaview Primary (we have a lot of these)
Currie Primary
Lowood Primary
Cavehill Primary
Ligoneill Primary
Hazelwood Integrated
Harberton
Cedar Lodge

We also have polos available for the schools above.

In addition we have lots of trousers, skirts, summer dresses, shirts, polo shirts, pinafores, shoes, trainers, ties, football boots and, bags available.

Everything is in good condition and there are toilets available to try any clothes on.

Church of Ireland shares congratulations on Gracehill's World Heritage Site recognition



The Church of Ireland's Archbishop of Armagh, Archbishop John McDowell, has offered his congratulations to Bishop Sarah Groves and the Moravian community in Ireland following the announcement that Gracehill has been recognised as a World Heritage Site.

"Anyone who has visited the Moravian settlement in Gracehill will have been struck immediately by its very distinctive atmosphere of peace and orderliness, qualities often in short supply in our modern lives," Archbishop McDowell remarked.

July 27, 2024

“Gracehill is a place of spiritual healing and of solid physical beauty which has now been recognised as such in by this UNESCO award.”

In recent years, the Church of Ireland and the Moravian Church in Britain and Ireland have been developing a closer formal relationship which will allow for clergy from both denominations to serve in either.

Bishop Michael Burrows who serves as the Church of Ireland Co–Chair of the Church of Ireland–Moravian Reference Group alongside Moravian Bishop Sarah Groves, added: “I’m thrilled to hear this great news from Gracehill. Bishop Sarah and her community deserve our warmest congratulations.



“On my many visits to that place of history, holiness and beauty I have found that its very atmosphere is the midwife of trust, friendship and ecumenical fruitfulness. I hope that many more people in the years to come will find that a visit to Gracehill sends them on their way rejoicing.”

To celebrate the Armagh Agreement, consolidating the new relationship between the two Churches, a special service took place on Monday, 18th March, this year in St Patrick’s Church, Ballymena, and continuing in Gracehill Moravian Church, accompanied with tree-planting in the Square and a reception in the Cennick Hall.

Clergy and ministry

A deacon for Midleton

**The Bishop of
Cork, Rt Rev
Paul Colton
and the
Reverend**

**Eoghan Healy following his ordination as a deacon on
the Feast of St James, Apostle and Martyr in Midleton in
Cloyne Union**



July 27, 2024

**Webinars,
music,
resources,
broadcasts,
and books**

**Lunchtime
music
recitals from
beautiful
First Church
Belfast
continue**



Wednesdays at 1.15pm. A regular enthusiast advises -
“Come early to secure a good seat.

“Treasure the fine windows and memorial plaques in this elegant church renowned for its superb acoustics.

First Church with NI Opera and Royal Irish Academy of Music.

For further details, see



<https://niopera.com/performances/summer-recital-series-2024/>

Small Steps Summer School on Shankill

The Summer School will take place from Monday 5th August - Friday 16th August 2024 in St. Matthew's Church Halls, Shankill Road

Summer School for children 7 - 12 years will include a fantastic range of activities, a day trip away and a hot meal provided each day!

Please note **Places Are Limited** and are on a first come first served basis.

July 27, 2024

There will be a registration event on Tuesday 30th July in the POD in Cityside, Yorkgate.
Tel: 07579016936

Seamus Heaney Summer 'Open Ground' Guided Experience

Open Ground is a unique visitor experience centred on locations that shaped Seamus Heaney's life and literature, including places from The Strand at Lough Beg to the Moyola River, which allows visitors the



opportunity to discover the smells, sights and sounds that make his poetry so uniquely of this place.

Our Open Ground Guided tour experience - 8th August and 4th September -allows you to journey through this landscape with the assistance of our knowledgeable team. You'll become acquainted with the same lanes, roads and paths that a young Seamus Heaney travelled on and through our informative guides, you'll hear how each of these five locations held such great significance for Seamus Heaney.

Book online here

<https://seamusheaneyhome.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873628107>

In the media

Christianity Today - Kamala Harris against history

The candidate's "unburdened by what has been" and "coconut tree" lines push her party toward a troubling partisan divide over the past itself, Bonnie Kristin writes.

President Joe Biden is out of the 2024 race, and Vice President Kamala Harris is angling to lead her party's ticket. In the surge of interest in her revised candidacy this past week, online attention has focused on two of her turns of

phrase. One is a line Harris has apparently been repeating for many years, returning to it so often that a four-minute clip of her saying it dozens of times is trending on social media.

That line—a call to envision and work toward “what can be, unburdened by what has been”—has been widely placed in tension with the other phrase in which Harris, quoting her mother, scoffs at those who “think [they](#) just fell out of a coconut tree.” No, she says, “You exist in the context of all in which you live and what came before you.”

Such a tension would be interesting—if it existed. It’d suggest a thoughtful balancing of progressive and conservative impulses, of aspiration for benevolent advancement and respect for wise tradition, of acknowledgment of the real ills of history alongside a quest for the careful preservation of its goods.

Unfortunately, this supposed tension is not evidenced. The contradiction is not within the vice president’s thinking but across the partisan divide, as Harris looks likely to lead Democrats toward a simplistic condemnation of bygone times while the GOP just as simplistically embraces a nostalgia so rosy it is sometimes false.

Listen to the coconut comment in context, as the line itself suggests we should, and you’ll find Harris isn’t speaking about respect for prior generations or retrieval of the virtues of the past. She’s accounting for the evils and woes of history so as to better progress toward equity in the future. Some young people are disadvantaged by lingering effects of the bad old days, Harris explains, which means that to

help them, state programs may also have to help their families and communities overcome their pasts.

That's probably correct at the level of practical guidance for members of the federal working group to whom Harris was speaking. But at a deeper level, it evinces the same negative attitude toward history and tradition that the "unburdened" quote so efficiently communicates. There is no thoughtful tension. There's only a revolt against the trappings of the past.

That posture would mark a significant difference between Harris and her predecessor—for Biden's age, long tenure in Washington, and predilection for reminiscing about his late father and son all incline him to a mixed view of history. Many of Biden's policies are progressive, but his attitude toward the past is neither uniformly critical nor nostalgic.

(At the height of 2020's iconoclastic fervor, for example, he distinguished "between monuments to Confederate leaders and statues of slave-owning former presidents such as Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, saying the former belong in museums while the latter should be protected.")

More important than her difference from a retiring Biden, though, is the contrast between Harris as a probable new leader of the Democratic Party and her rivals across the aisle.

Always in recent decades the party more inclined to look longingly at the past, the Republican Party of our moment is all-in on nostalgia: for the first Trump administration, for the

Reagan years, for official prayer in public schools, for one-income households and company pensions, for traditional gender roles and a robust drug war and a time when “woke” was not in our lexicon. For the 1950s or the 1890s or the 1770s or whenever it was, exactly, that America was pure, powerful, and great. Make America Great Again is the slogan, after all.

As constitutional scholar Yuval Levin observed in *National Review* earlier this year, nostalgia politics used to be bipartisan. Go back 10 or 15 years and you can find baby boomer Democrats reminiscing about middle-class mid-century Middle America just as fluently as their Republican counterparts.

“I grew up in an America that invested in its kids and built a strong middle class; that allowed millions of children to rise from poverty and establish secure lives,” Levin quotes Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren telling her party’s convention as recently as 2012.

That kind of rhetoric has been in decline for three presidential election cycles—on the left, that is. And if Harris clinches the Democratic nomination, we may expect her to move her party further on to “what can be,” “unburdened” by the regressive “context of all in which you live” and the oppression of “what came before you.”

Nostalgia politics have not comparably declined on the right, nor does that seem likely so long as the GOP is helmed by former president Donald Trump and his literal or political heirs. And this strikes me as a serious problem.

The problem is not that some of us would be generally pro-history and others pro-future. It's not that some of us would tend toward tradition and others toward progress. It's that some of us would have such revulsion for the present and others such revulsion for the past, and that polarization would push us to see this split as a matter of partisan loyalty and animosity—that history would be reduced to burden or meme.

The tension (wrongly) perceived in those two lines from Harris is good. It is a tension that should make sense to Christians, we who affirm the goodness of creation and new creation, who understand humanity is both fallen and retentive of God's image, who pass on the faith of our forebears while living with the consequences of their sins (Deut. 6:5–9; 5:9–10).

We worship a God who does not erase history nor spare us its pains, some of them self-inflicted (Ps. 7:14–16)—but who does promise to redeem that suffering (Rom. 8:18–21), to bring justice and forgiveness (Ezek. 18), and to rescue us from sin, evil, and death itself (Heb. 2:14–15).

For us, to fall entirely on one side of a simplistic pro-history or anti-history split is not just divisive politicking. It's bad anthropology and soteriology, evincing a naive and shallow understanding of how God made humans, how we spurned him, and how he is working in history to save us. It leaves us unburdened, yes: unburdened by reality.

Bonnie Kristian is the editorial director of ideas and books at Christianity Today.

Poem for today

Man at Arms



What are you guarding, Man-at-Arms?
Why do you watch and wait?
'I guard the graves, said the Man-at-Arms,
I guard the graves by Flanders farms
Where the dead will rise at my call to arms,
And march to the Menin gate'.

'When do they march then, Man-at-Arms?
Cold is the hour – and late'
'They march tonight' said the Man-at-Arms,
With the moon on the Menin gate.
They march when the midnight bids them go.
With their rifles slung and their pipes aglow,
Along the roads, the roads they know,
The roads to the Menin gate.

'What are they singing, Man-at-Arms,
As they march to the Menin gate?'
'The Marching songs', said the Man-at-Arms,
That let them laugh at fate.

July 27, 2024

No more will the night be cold for them,
For the last tattoo has rolled for them,
And their souls will sing as of old for them,
As they march to the Menin gate.

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

Posted on site early Monday to Saturday