

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Rural Chaplaincy

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Rural Chaplaincy

Rev Kenny Hanna is Rural Chaplain, covering four presbyteries: Armagh, Down, Iveagh and Newry. Kenny grew up on a farm in the Mournes and continues to farm part-time.

His wife, Freda, is a Primary School teacher, while their daughter Rebekah studies at Cornhill Bible teaching course and also works as an intern at Kingsmills Presbyterian Church. Their son Matthew is on work placement in the third year of his computer science degree. Their home church is Mourne.

He writes: I have just begun my second of this three year rural chaplaincy pilot scheme, which covers four presbyteries (Armagh, Down, Iveagh and Newry) and their c.100 congregations. We are here to help families of all backgrounds: the essence of this work is summed up in our strapline: "Caring for farmers, their families and the rural community. Bringing the hope of Jesus the Good Shepherd."

Rural chaplaincy is a Jesus-centred initiative and a small team of pastoral evangelists form the backbone of the weekly work, with others supplementing the team for particular events as required. We sensitively seek to come

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alongside individuals and families in their need, referring them to other organisations as appropriate and pointing them to the hope only Jesus can bring.

Our work is very much a partnership: between the Council for Mission in Ireland (CMI), livestock markets, farm support agencies, agri-businesses and local churches in the four pilot presbyteries. The marts (Downpatrick, Hilltown, Rathfriland and Markethill) provide a helpful base for us, being social and economic hubs for farmers; they also determine the four presbytery areas.



BANDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Tractor & Vintage Run

Sunday 7th April 2024
11am Registration - €20 per Vehicle

In Aid of:

Bandon Grammar School & Bandon Union of Parishes



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We see our work as helping local PCI churches to connect with their communities and share Jesus' good news. This includes training Christians and establishing PCI stands at local agricultural shows, initiating build-bridging events at livestock markets, speaking at a wide variety of church-based initiatives, taking the monthly evangelistic Bible study at a hotel in Hilltown and helping to produce a rural-themed gospel tract and an evangelistic gospel course. I also regularly visit PCI congregations, informing about the work and encouraging prayer for it.

Kenny describes some of the highlights of his first year as Rural Chaplain:

"I am extremely excited about this work and its potential, under God."

"We have already had the opportunity to encourage lots of Christian farmers and farming families to live for Jesus in their rural situations and we delight to share Jesus' good news with people of all backgrounds, some of whom may seldom hear about Jesus."

"More widely, there has been an interest in rural chaplaincy and its possibilities for other rural situations outside the four pilot presbyteries."

"The most important thing we could ask of you is to please pray for this gospel effort. The reason that God is at work is because his people are praying,

News

Dutch Faculty of Theology visits Queen's University

Last week the Catholic Chaplaincy welcomed students and staff from the Faculty of Theology at Windesheim University in Zwolle, the Netherlands, to Queen's.

The group enjoyed a Q&A with Fr Dominic followed by a tour of campus and lunch with the Chaplaincy team.

The group visited St Mary's University College Religious Studies Department for an afternoon, and spent time with good friends at Fitzroy Presbyterian.



Lenten pilgrimage swop by hike and canoe

A mini Lenten pilgrimage in Clogher diocese between Trory Parish Church and Rossorry Parish Church

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and return was undertaken in an unusual way this week.

Revd Stephen McWhirter welcomes Revd Mark Gallagher to Rossorry Church after his walk from Trory.

Revd Mark Gallagher, Rector of Trory and Killadeas parishes, walked



Revd Stephen McWhirter completes his canoe from Enniskillen at Trory jetty

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from Trory Church to Rossorry Church in time to preside at the weekly Wednesday morning of Holy Communion.

Then around lunchtime, Revd Stephen McWhirter, Rector of Rossorry, got into his kayak and paddled from Portora Castle to Trory jetty via Devenish Island. Revd Stephen presented Revd Mark with small wooden crosses for each of his churches and rectory.

Revd Stephen then preached at the Killadeas Midweek Service on Wednesday evening.

The weather was dry for Revd Mark's early morning walk and it was dry and calm for Revd Stephen's canoe on Lower Lough Erne.



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There was mutual acknowledgement from each of the rectors as they completed a simple yet symbolic gesture.

Free event on Sculptures, Lewis and Grace

On Thursday of next week St Mark's Parish, Dundela, will be welcoming artist Ross Wilson for his reflections on Sculptures, Lewis and Grace.

You are invited to this free event which begins at 7.30 p.m. in the hall. It promises to be a fascinating event. CS Lewis' grandfather was rector of Dundela and in the church there is a stained glass window which Lewis and his brother gave in memory of their parents. See illustration on previous page for further info.





When the Pope met the Glensmen!

Thanks to Friends of Ballycastle Museum for this historic photo of Pope John Paul meeting the Glensmen.

The diocesan Vicar General, Monsignor Colm McCaughan (from Glenshesk) and Bishop Michael Dallat (from Ballycastle) met Pope John Paul, in the 1980's.

Church school representatives meet Ni Minister

The Transferor Representatives' Council recently met with Northern Ireland's Education Minister, Paul Givan

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They discussed a range of challenges and opportunities facing schools as the new Executive begins its work.

The TRC collectively represents the views and interests of the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, and Methodist Church, regarding education issues in Northern Ireland, and works with the controlled school sector and others on behalf of teachers, school governors, pupils and families.

TRC representatives were Dr Anita Gracie, Dr Rebecca Stevenson, Dr Andrew Brown (Chair), and Dr Peter Hamill (Secretary).



Downpatrick St Patrick's Day Festival Service livestream

If you would like to join Down Diocese remotely for their St Patrick's Day Festival Service on Saturday 16 March you can do so via a live link on the Down Cathedral website.

The broadcast will begin 5 minutes before the service at 11.45am.

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Please follow this link to the Down Cathedral livestream page from which all Cathedral services are broadcast.

[<https://www.downcathedral.org/#livestream>]

How Patrick's life speaks into living in Ireland today - Archbishop of Armagh and Archbishop of Dublin

Archbishops John McDowell and Michael Jackson share a joint reflection on how Patrick's life and faith resonate with the challenges of life across our island and the wider world at this time:

St Patrick's Day is a day on which to reflect on Gospel and on Ireland. It is also a day on which to ask what connects them to one another in the contemporary world. St Patrick came to Ireland and came back to Ireland to share the Gospel, to live the Gospel, and to teach the Irish to live by the Gospel. He was not at the top of the social pile but at the bottom. He was a captive and a refugee, trafficked and enslaved. He did worthy and menial work. Yet the glory of God shone through his person in his teaching, his example and his writing. And he loved the Irish.

There is every reason to be sad and to be angry in a world where we readily feel helpless. And helplessness feeds hopelessness. Inequalities and injustices are part of the wallpaper of our world. Their protagonists occupy the front rows of seating in our world. Our frustration at institutions and acronyms that promise so much and deliver so little mounts daily and readily spills over into cynicism. The

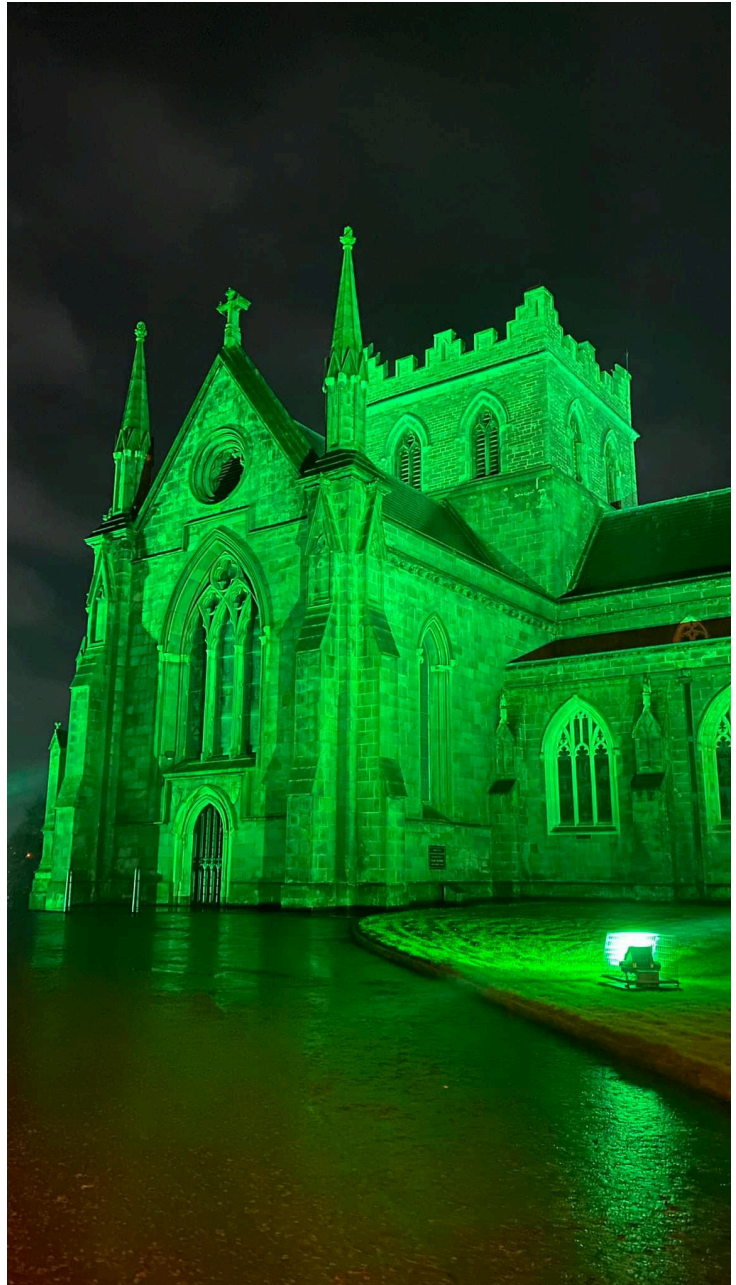
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pulsating danger for our world on St Patrick's Day is that cynicism morphs into apathy. And apathy opens the door to anarchy, polite and impolite, whether to left or to right, it matters not.

Our world, and indeed our Ireland, is a place of jarring and jagged contrasts. On the one hand, we welcome strangers and on the other hand, we set alight the accommodation that might have been their home and inflict shame on the community in whose midst they might have begun a new life holding to the lifeline of human dignity. Vast

tracts of housing, which those who live in them will never be able to buy because they are built not to sell, but solely to rent, sit edgily alongside people for whom living in a tent on the street is not even an option.

Israel–Palestine, Russia and Ukraine are places of war and unsettlement, of disease and contagion. So also are Yemen and the Democratic Republic of the Congo along with countless other countries. Alienation and irrelevance show their faces differently but they show their faces nonetheless



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at home and abroad. It is a human duty in a post-Christian country to welcome those who flee oppression and to stand against those who persecute. Failure to speak against an anti-immigrant and a racist narrative creates a new level of tolerance of what only weeks before was intolerable.

The Gospel for St Patrick's Day (St John 4.31–38) speaks of the fields being ripe for harvest. This is a creative and a generous prospect. In the midst of desolation, there is the hope of harvest mediated through love. It speaks also of: one sowing and another reaping. Those who benefit do so on the back of the hard graft of those who went before them. Our world is a world where self-image triumphs over self-understanding. St Patrick's life gives us food for thought and food for generosity about who we are and about who we might yet become. We have still a lot to learn from one who was an enslaved serf and a trafficked foreigner in Ireland 2024.

In the media

What losing my husband to a brain tumour at 39 taught me about love

Clare Campbell-Cooper writes in the Belfast Telegraph on what she learned during partner's David's illness.

In a way, I consider myself to be part of an incredibly fortunate minority — those people who have been given the

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opportunity to understand how incredibly precious being loved, and the gift of being able to give love, is.

My husband, David, was diagnosed with a brain tumour at 26 and he died when he was 39. Over the course of those 12 years, I learned more about love than I ever thought possible.

I learned that, in an emergency, you can put your love aside so that you can function systematically and methodically.

Over the course of David's illness, he was hospitalised many times and could deteriorate within 24 hours. There was no time for emotion, no time for panic, no time for me to feel my own fear. David needed me and I wouldn't fail him. I got him safe. I kept him warm, hydrated, pain-free. I administered his rescue medication, took his pulse, his temperature and blood pressure. I monitored his eyes and his breathing. I made the call. I kept him alive. Only after leaving him in hospital at the end of the day could I collapse and give in to my fear.

I learned that everyone is doing the best they can, making the best decisions that they can with the information they have to hand. On one occasion, David was hospitalised for an overdose. There had been a mistake on his prescription. Instead of feeling angry, we chose to accept and move on — we chose to forgive. No one makes a mistake on purpose and I learned to show compassion and love to all, not just friends and family.

I learned that family and home mean the world and that our love for both will never diminish with distance. We lived in

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Devon but David was from Newtownabbey. We received permission to travel to Northern Ireland a few weeks before David died. He wanted to see his family and his home again before he died. And we gathered, socially distanced, in the cold that can only be a late spring in NI, so that we could laugh together one last time.

I witnessed David's love for our son. It was immediate and unswerving. Every evening, on his way to bed, David would call out "Love you, George" despite knowing that George

Peregryne

*A series of four
offices of compline*

15-20 MARCH 2024

with music by

JOHN BROWNE (c.1453-after 1505)
reconstructed by Tim Symons (†2022)

& Magnus Williamson,

THOMAS TALLIS (c.1505-85)

& ALONSO LOBO (1555-1617)



FRIDAY 15 MARCH COMPLINE

18.00 SANDFORD Church
Ranelagh, Dublin

SATURDAY 16 MARCH COMPLINE

17.00 Sr AUGUSTINE & JOHNS' Church
(John's Lane), Thomas Street, Dublin

MONDAY 18 MARCH COMPLINE

17.30 St PATRICK'S Cathedral
Dublin

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH COMPLINE

17.30 St MARY'S Cathedral
Limerick

ADMISSION FREE FOR ALL EVENTS

ALL ARE MOST WELCOME

www.facebook.com/peregryne

was usually asleep. George was the last person David spoke to, the last person who he remembered the name of. George was the last person to administer his medication — when no one else could get David to swallow.

David managed, even when he was only partly conscious, to make sure things were right for George. David's love for him knew no boundaries: it was pure, unfailing and given freely and unreservedly.

I learned that a mother's love is complete and unconditional. I am ashamed to say that, in my darkest moments, I took advantage of my mum, lashing her with my tongue and my razor-sharp wit.

I knew where the chinks in her armour were and I knew what would get to her. I suppose, subconsciously, I wanted her to hurt as much as I was hurting. My mum took all of this without complaint or bitterness, psychologically accepting my burden. She was never resentful, rarely upset and always loving.

She was steadfast and remained strong, never faltering under the weight of my hurt, anger and grief. And I, in return, give the same love to George.

I learned that a dying man, one unconscious to all but God, can show love. On the last day of David's life, when his poor, ravaged body could barely breathe, I realised he was holding on for George and me, not wanting to leave us. Whilst my heart was breaking into a million tiny pieces, I sat down and told him gently that he could go, that we knew we were loved and that we would be OK. I told him I couldn't

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love him more. He died that night, surrounded by the people who loved him most: our son, David's sister Karen and me.

I learned that God loves us. He held our family safe in His hands long enough for our son to have memories of his father. He gave David a good death. He was always there, in our darkest moments, to banish the shadows in the darkest night, to give us hope and grace.

David's story is a love story. A love of life, a love of the power for good, a love of light, of people, of faith, of joy, of laughter. A love of love. I have been blessed.

Look around. Take the time to say people look good, that that colour suits them, that you are pleased to see them and are looking forward to a catch-up. Let your smile reach your eyes, hug hard, tell your family they are appreciated. And when things go wrong, as they inevitably will, be gentle, be kind, show love.



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Clare Campbell-Cooper's new book, *Choosing To Float*, is out now (£8.99), available from Amazon.co.uk. Clare will be giving at least 10% of her net royalties to Brain Tumour Research

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Compline series by Peregryne

Peregryne will sing a series of four offices of compline in Dublin and Limerick from Friday 15 to Wednesday 20 March 2024, which will feature a work from the Eton choirbook (c.1500) by John Browne (c.1453-after 1505), reconstructed by Tim Symons (†2022) and Magnus Williamson, as well as music by Thomas Tallis (c.1505-85) and Alonso Lobo (1555-1617).

The offices will take place in:

Sandford church on Friday 15 March at 18.00,

Ss Augustine & John on Saturday 16 March at 17.00,

St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin on Monday 18 March at 17.30

and St Mary's, Limerick on Wednesday 20 March, also at 17.30, which will start the Limerick Early Music Festival

<https://www.nowandthenmedia.com/programme>

Admission is free to all events, and all are most welcome.

Dundalk Seminary Visitors' Day

Armagh diocese - We are blessed to have a seminary in Dundalk, helping provide priests for our parishes. 5 priests and 2 deacons have been ordained so far from the seminary, which was established in 2012

The Redemptoris Mater Seminary of the Archdiocese of Armagh will be holding a Seminary Visitors' Day on



REDEMPTORIS MATER SEMINARY
Seminary of the Archdiocese of Armagh
PREPARING PRIESTS FOR THE FUTURE





SEMINARY VISITORS' DAY

De la Salle Terrace, Dundalk, Co Louth, A91C5D6
Saturday, 23rd March 2024
10-12 noon; 2pm-5pm



Redemptoris Mater Seminary was established in Dundalk in 2012.

This seminary forms priests for the Archdiocese of Armagh who have a missionary spirit

5 PRIESTS AND 2 DEACONS HAVE BEEN ORDAINED FROM THIS SEMINARY SO FAR

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 17 SEMINARIANS IN FORMATION

We hope that our presence in the Archdiocese of Armagh may be encouraging for the local community of Dundalk and beyond.

God continues to provide priests for His people.

On Saturday 23rd March 2024
We invite you to come and visit our Seminary, meet the seminarians and find out more about us.

ALL WELCOME
Light refreshments served.

Info: 042 933 6584
seminary@redmatarmagh.org
www.redmatarmagh.org



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Saturday 23rd March 2024 from 10am-12 noon; 2pm-5pm.

All are welcome. This is an opportunity for everyone to come and visit the Seminary, meet the seminarians who are currently in formation here and to get to know more about the community there. Light refreshments will be served.

Location:

Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary,
De La Salle Terrace,
Dundalk, Co. Louth,
A91 C5D6.

For further information:

Tel: +353 42 933 6584,
Email: seminary@redmatarmagh.org,
website: <http://www.redmatarmagh.org>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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