

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – 66 bishops meet with Focolare

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Image of the day



66 bishops meet with Focolare

Irish churches participate in Focolare Movement's conference at Augsburg

In a truly global and ecumenical gathering, 60 bishops from 26 nations and representing 30 denominations convened in Augsburg, Germany, from 27th February -1st March, for the 40th Bishops' Meeting of the Focolare Movement.

The event showcased a commitment to fostering unity and understanding among diverse Christian traditions and took on particular importance as this year marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Lutheran-Catholic "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification". Ireland was represented by: Bishop Brendan Leahy, emeritus Bishop Trevor Williams, Archbishop John McDowell, emeritus

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Archbishop Richard Clarke, Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification”. Ireland was represented by: Bishop Brendan Leahy, emeritus Bishop Trevor Williams, Archbishop John McDowell, emeritus Archbishop Richard Clarke,



Bishop Sarah Groves. Focolare’s President, Margaret Karram and Co-President Jesus Moran, also attended.

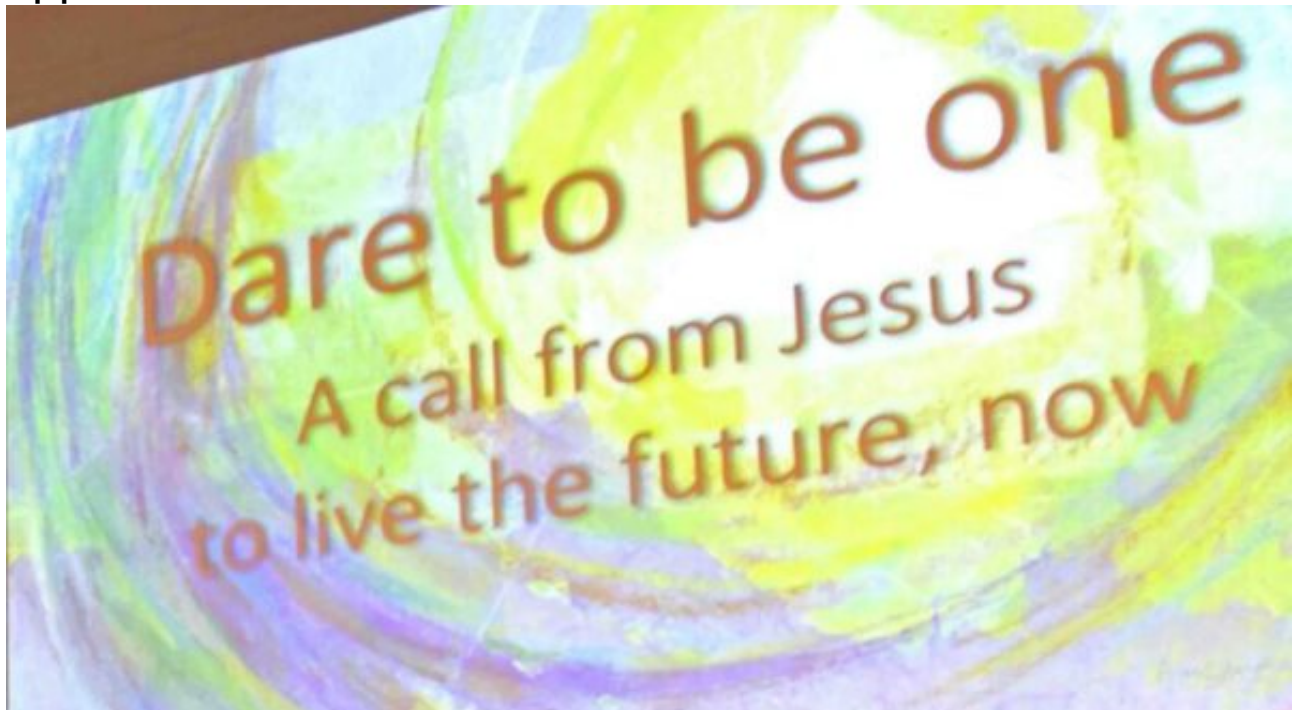
Sixty–six bishops participated from 26 countries and 29 Christian denominations; also present were Focolare’s President, Margaret Karram, and Co–President, Jesús Morán.

Theme: “Dare to Unite”

The meeting, themed “Dare to Unite,” focused on building bridges across different faiths and denominations. The Bishops participated in a “listening school of faith,” emphasizing the importance of active listening across

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linguistic and cultural boundaries. Bishop Bertram Meier, Bishop of Augsburg, reflecting on the gathering, urged participants to view differences not as threats but as opportunities for mutual enrichment.



Ecumenism of Love

The event embraced Pope Francis's vision of an "ecumenism of love," emphasizing the power of love in fostering unity. Bishop Brendan Leahy highlighted the concept of a "dialogue of life," where shared experiences, joys, sorrows, and hardships contribute to a deeper understanding among believers. The meeting aimed to promote love and understanding while respecting the distinctiveness of each denomination.

The Focolare Movement, originating in 1943 in Trento, Italy, has become a beacon of unity across the Christian world. With a presence in over 180 countries and approximately

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140,000 members, the movement bridges denominational gaps, connecting Christians from 350 different churches.

Nicolas Schnall from the Catholic Diocese of Augsburg's press office reports on the meeting in an article at this link on the Focolare website.

[<https://www.focolare.org/ireland/news/2024/02/29/international-bishops-gather-for-ecumenical-dialogue-at-focolare-movements-40th-bishops-meeting/>]

**CLOTHES
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 Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross

 COMMUNITY
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To Help 'Way to Wicklow'
raise funds for their
Community sponsorship
programme



2pm - 4pm
Saturday 9th March
Roundwood Parish Hall

PLEASE JOIN US
Support the event &
pick up some Bargains

For more Info and Donations please contact
Máire @ 0863642082 (Roundwood)
Barbara @ 087 9642525 (Dublin)

News



Lisbellaw Thinking Day response - Cheque for Fermanagh Fun Farm

This week the Revd William, together with Scout and Brownie leaders, Clodagh and Maureen were delighted to hand over a cheque for £182 to Alan and Helen at Fermanagh Fun Farm.

This was the proceeds of the collection taken at the Thinking Day Service in Lisbellaw Parish Church on 18th February.

NI Education Minister told of uniformed organisations huge impact

BBNI Chief Officer Lisa Keys had a very productive and encouraging meeting with the Education Minister and colleagues from the uniform sector this week.

Lisa said, “It was useful to chat to the Minister about the value of uniformed organisations and share some of the ways in which our brilliant leaders make a huge impact in the lives of children and young people”.

Helping Church of Bangladesh to celebrate its 50th anniversary

The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Anthony Poggo, has been visiting and encouraging members of the Church of Bangladesh as they celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The theme of the celebrations is “One Apostolic Church, One family & One Future”, reflecting the ecumenical nature and history of the Church of Bangladesh.

During the visit, Bishop Anthony is spending time with the church community, with Bishop Samuel Sunil Manhkin (Primate and Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh); Bishop Shourabh Pholia (Deputy Moderator and Bishop of Barishal Diocese); Bishop Hemen Halder (Kushtia Diocese) and the Revd Suchitra Behera.

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Please pray for the entire church community in Bangladesh over this important weekend of celebration and thanksgiving.

Light the Beacons - St Patrick's Day at Down Cathedral

'Light the
Beacons' is the
theme for this
year's annual St
Patrick's Day
festival which
will focus on

praying for a rekindling of the fire of faith that Patrick lit in Ireland almost 1600 years ago.



The diocesan celebrations are open to all and will take place on Saturday 16 March.

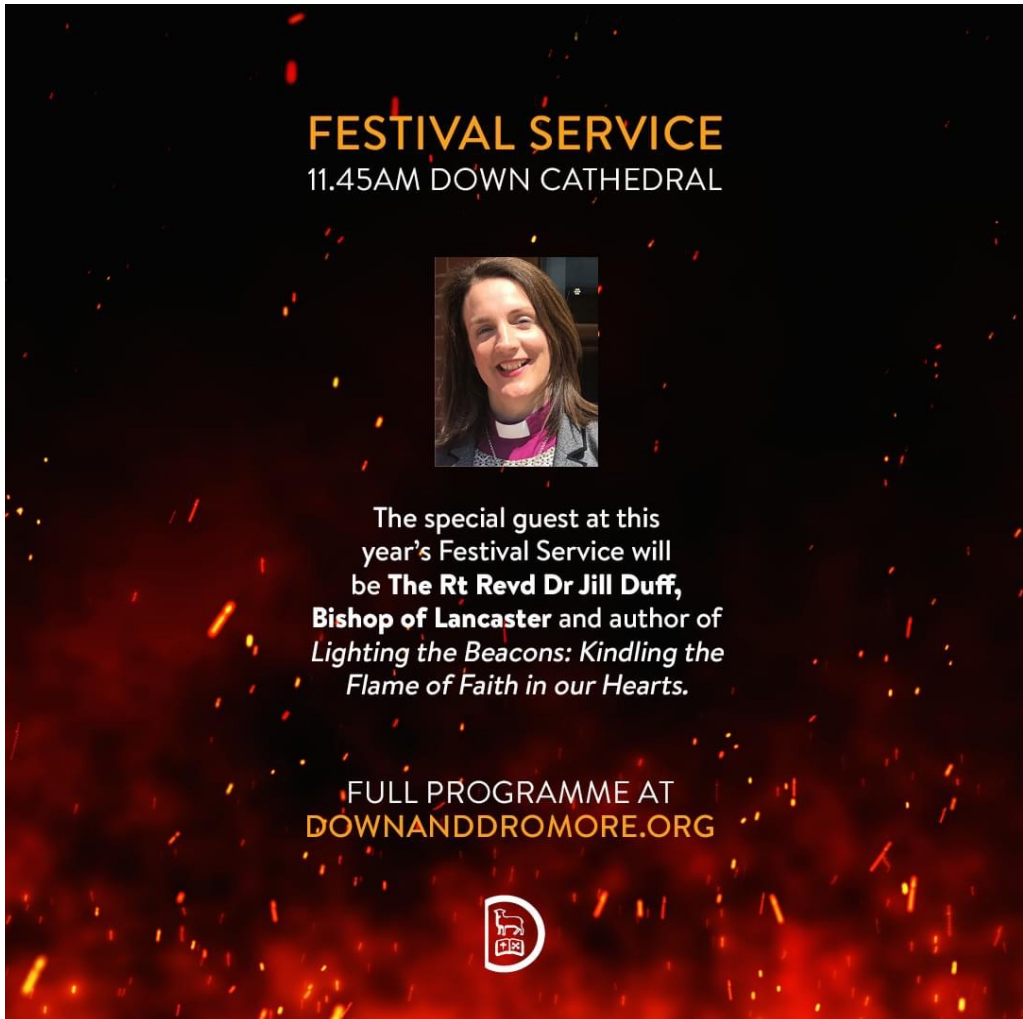
We're delighted that the preacher at Saul Church will be Revd Canon Bill Press, the rector of Knockbreda Parish. A prayer pilgrimage to Down Cathedral will follow the service and you are warmly invited to join this cross-community and often international band of pilgrims.

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The festival will continue with special prayer services in parishes on Sunday 17 March.

Our guest preacher at the Festival Service at 11.45am in Down


Cathedral is Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster.



FESTIVAL SERVICE
11.45AM DOWN CATHEDRAL

The special guest at this year's Festival Service will be **The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster** and author of *Lighting the Beacons: Kindling the Flame of Faith in our Hearts*.

FULL PROGRAMME AT
DOWNANDDROMORE.ORG



Bishop David says: “Bishop Jill’s scholarly and yet deeply spiritual insights into the lives of the saints including St Patrick (see her book *Lighting the Beacons: Kindling the Flame of Faith in our Hearts*). mean she is the ideal person to encourage us to pray as a diocese for rekindling of the fire of faith that Patrick lit in Ireland almost 1600 years ago.

“In 433AD in defiance of the pagan king, Laoise, Patrick lit a Paschal fire to celebrate Easter. It was said that if that Paschal fire was not put out on that day it would never be extinguished. Almost 1600 years later the fire of the gospel has not been put out but needs fanned into flame in Ireland again.”

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Bishop David will light a symbolic fire at the end of the Festival Service and a representative from each church in the diocese will take a torch and a container of concentrated paraffin oil back to their parish.

On the evening of 17 March, St Patrick's Day, every church large and small, will hold a special service of prayer for revival. With beacons lit, we'll be asking God to light the fire of the gospel in Ireland and in that local church context once again.

Join us for this special day in our church calendar.

PROGRAMME



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9.15am: Holy Communion at Saul

10.15am: Prayer Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick

11.45am: Festival Service in Down Cathedral with Bishop Jill Duff

Lighting of symbolic beacon and wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave

1.00pm: Complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'

TRANSPORT TO SAUL CHURCH

Please park along the Mall leading to the Cathedral in Downpatrick and board one of the private buses.

Buses to the communion service depart between 8.15 and 8.45am. The last bus for the pilgrimage leaves at 9.45am. The last bus from Saul to the Cathedral leaves at 10.40 am.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

New C of I podcast - Encouraging diversity in decision - making

Ahead of Easter vestries across the island, the Primate's Reference Group on Ethnic Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice has called on parishes to reflect on the need for diversity in decision-making at all levels in the Church, and to consider how we can ensure that our Church leadership reflects the diversity of our membership.

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In this second podcast from the Reference Group, the Revd Eileen Cremin, the Revd Philip McKinley and Dr Lucy Michael discuss how parishes and dioceses can take practical steps to include and recognise the talents of our Church membership in its full diversity, reflecting both the Kingdom of God in its fullness, and the benefits which diversity brings to our internal strength as parishes and dioceses, and to our community, mission and outreach.

[<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/12269/diversity-in-decisionmaking>]

Celtic Psalms in Cavan and Derry

“We have three cross-community concerts coming up, including two Candlelight concerts during Holy Week (link below).

“The first concert will be in the lovely space featured in this photo: Cahans Church in Cavan, Co. Monaghan on Friday 22 March at 8pm (15 euros at the door). This will be our fourth time to sing in this stunning old church, now converted into a bridge-building events space.

“Then on Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, there will be Candlelight concerts in Derry (Monday 25 Mar) and Belfast (Tuesday 26 Mar), with special guest singer-songwriter Eilidh Patterson”.

Booking details here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/celtic-psalms-2990559>

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Episode 3 of The Organ Podcast is out now

We meet Anne Marsden Thomas & Ghislaine Reece-Trapp to discuss the extraordinary challenges women organists and composers have had to overcome; chat to organist Richard Gowers about the ways he's diversified his keyboard skills to develop his career; and get one last chance to relish the distinctive 'Romantic' sounds of Bristol Cathedral's 1907 Walker organ before it gets taken away for a major restoration.

Available wherever you get your podcasts, or find out how to listen at www.rco.org.uk/the_organ_podcast.php

Children and Family worker wanted

The United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's wishes to appoint a Children and Family Worker, on a part-time basis, to work with our growing number of young families.

We believe that family is a crucial aspect of church and community life and are seeking to expand our ministry to children and young families in particular.

The successful candidate will oversee and develop our existing ministry amongst children (0–12yrs) and initiate new ministry opportunities with families.

We are looking for someone who:

- Is a spiritually mature Christian with a passion for children's ministry.

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- Is a team player with a natural ability to relate to children and families.
 - Is creative, enthusiastic, self-motivated and able to organise themselves and others effectively.
 - Has experience of working with children and families preferably in a church context.
 - Is happy to work under the ethos of the Church of Ireland.
- Responsibilities would include but are not limited to:
- The overall running of our Kids' Club, whilst promoting the spiritual development of the children.
 - Helping to integrate families into our church community and encouraging more family interaction with parochial activities.
 - Organising special children and family events/services within the church calendar.
 - Ensuring that all children's activities are operating within the Church of Ireland's Safeguarding Trust policy.

This post, which will be subject to an initial six-month probation period, involves regular dealings with young people and other vulnerable groups. Accordingly, the appointee to this post will be subjected to successful Garda clearance and working within the Church of Ireland's Safeguarding Trust policy.

For an Application Form or further information please contact the Rev'd Canon David Gillespie, The Rectory, Church Road, Malahide on davidgillespie038@gmail.com or telephone 01 8061374.

Closing date for applications is March 30th, 2024.

Advance Notice

15th Annual

Magheragall Country Vintage Fair

**To be held at: 70 Ballinderry Rd
Lisburn, BT28 2QS**

**On Saturday 25th May 2024
From 10am til 4pm**

All Old Vehicles Welcome

**Would anyone like to book a stall,
craft, auto jumble, food etc?**

Please contact below:

John 07979870861

Yvonne 07595394904

Neill 07894349444

Book ASAP to guarantee a space

In the media

Belfast Telegraph - Prince William condemns surge in antisemitism during synagogue visit

The Prince of Wales has condemned the rise in hatred directed against the country's Jewish community saying “antisemitism has no place in society”, writes Tom Jones.

William visited a London synagogue to meet young people representing Jewish students and others helping to combat antisemitism among the next generation to “reassure you all that people do care”.

He also spent a time with Holocaust survivor Renee Salt (94) and held her hand after she recounted her fears about the rise in hatred and told her: “It must be horrible for all of you worrying about this and I'm sorry it's got to this...it will get better.”

Cases of antisemitism have been on the rise since the October 7 raids by the Palestinian militant group Hamas killed about 1,200 and saw around 250 people taken hostage.

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The future king's visit to the Western Marble Arch Synagogue came after he called for the fighting in the Israel-Hamas war to end “as soon as possible” and increased humanitarian support for Gaza, during a visit last week to the London headquarters of the British Red Cross.

William heard the personal evidence of the young people who spoke about how Jewish students across the country have been affected by the rise of hatred on the streets of Britain which had created a “climate of fear”. He told them: “Well, you've heard it from me, antisemitism has no place in society, you've heard that from me OK — I've said that before and I'll say it again.

“And hearing all ... your lived experiences both Catherine and I are extremely concerned about the rise in antisemitism

NORTH/SOUTH SPERRIN
Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

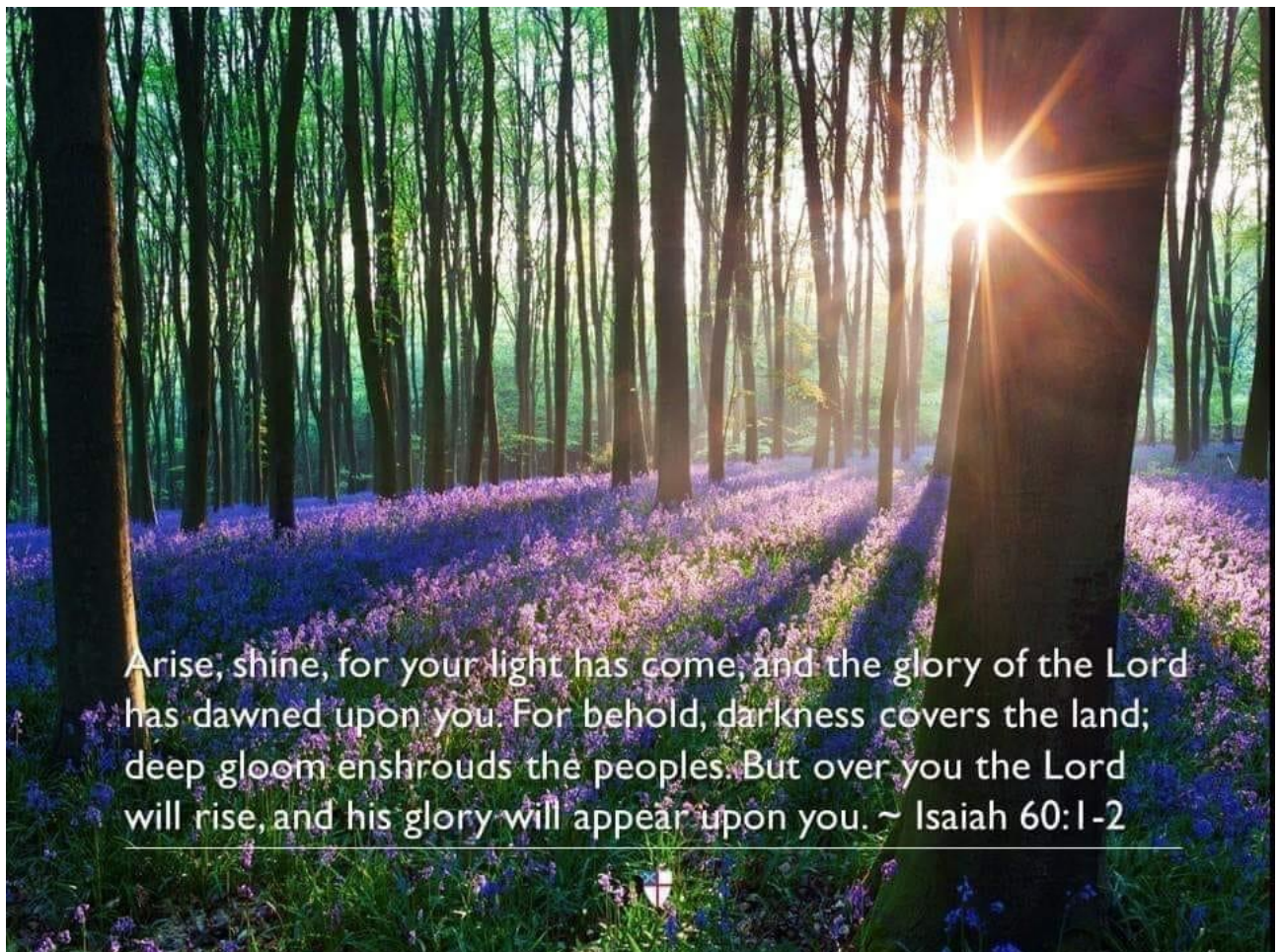
ME BIG
ME Hymn Sing
MUMS in MAY
Kilcronaghan Parish Church, Tobermore
on Thursday 7th March 2024
at 8.00pm

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that you guys have talked about so eloquently this morning, and I'm just so sorry you've had to experience that, it has no place and it shouldn't happen.

“So that's why I'm here today to reassure you all that people do care, people do listen and we can't let that keep going.” In 2017 William and Kate visited Stutthof concentration camp and met Holocaust survivors and he told the group of young people: “I think it's important people go and visit.”

He stressed it gave him an “informed view” about “history” and “culture” but: “A lot live in their silos, in their echo chamber on social media, they don't have different influences, they don't have anything else, they might not have anyone they know who's Jewish...it's so important we break out of those boxes.”



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. For behold, darkness covers the land; deep gloom enshrouds the peoples. But over you the Lord will rise, and his glory will appear upon you. ~ Isaiah 60:1-2

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
