

Church News Ireland

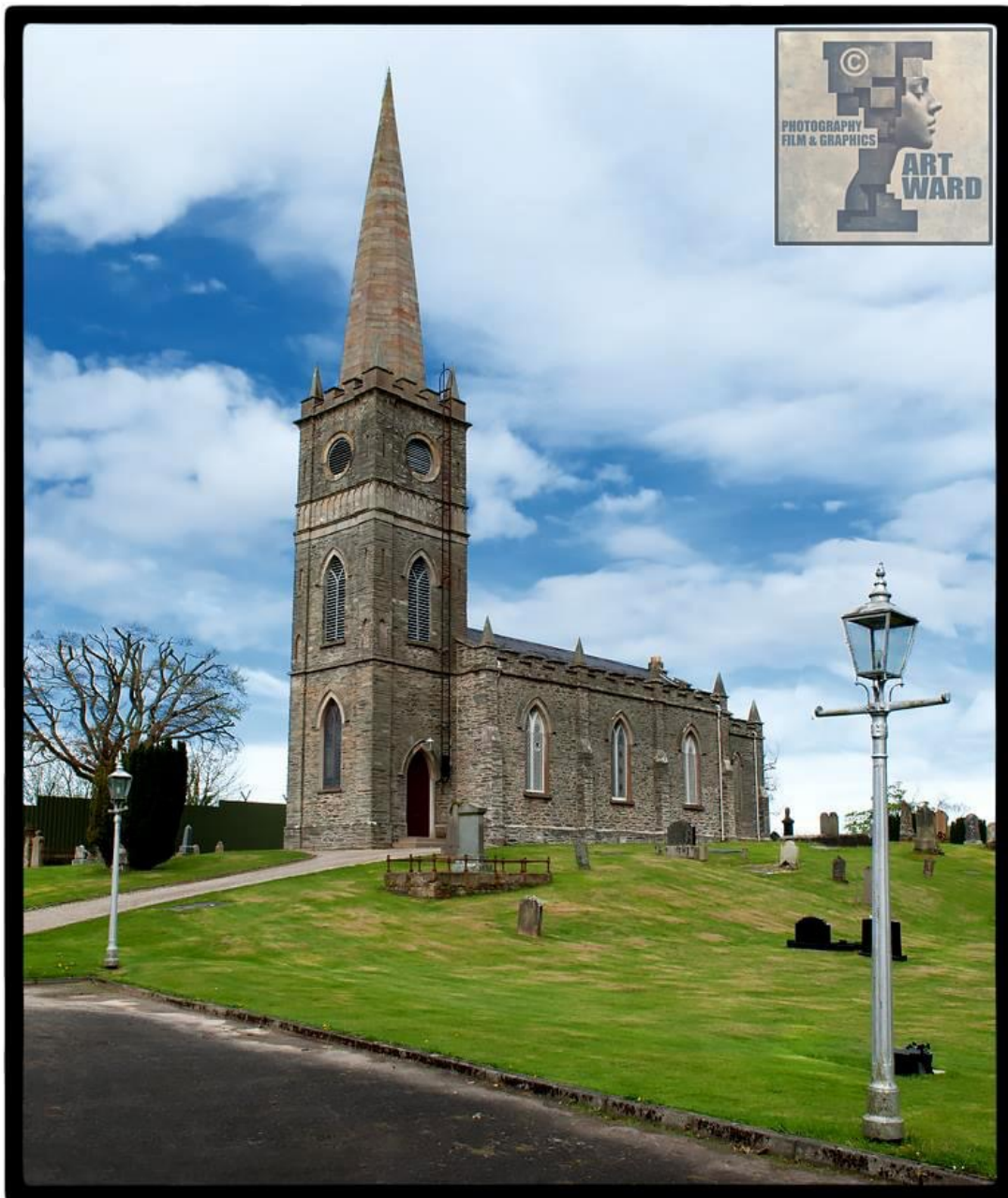


Image of the day – Steinbeck's Ballykelly links

Image of the day

Steinbeck's Ballykelly links

A unique connection to Ballykelly comes through the ancestry of the Noble Peace Prize winner for Literature, John Steinbeck (1902-1968), one of America's best-known authors who wrote such classics as 'East of Eden', 'Of Mice and Men' and 'The Grapes of Wrath' for which he won the Pulitzer Prize.

He came here in 1952 to trace his ancestors. Steinbeck's maternal grandfather was Samuel Hamilton who was born in Ballykelly in 1830 and baptized in the Presbyterian Church. The family farm (now gone) was at Mullkeeragh just off the Tully Road on the edge of the village. Samuel Hamilton emigrated to America during the famine years, he met and married Elizabeth Fagan in New York in 1849 and they then moved to California and lived in the Salina Valley.

John Steinbeck and his wife Elaine visited Ballykelly on 18th August, 1952 to discover where his ancestors had come from and to try and find any surviving members locally.

Eventually they discovered the Hamilton family headstones in Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church and one marking Elizabeth (Minnie) Hamilton, who had passed away on February 11th, 1951, aged 84, two years before his visit.

Minnie was the daughter of Samuel Hamilton's brother, William John Hamilton and Jane Ritchie. In his article 'I go back to Ireland' which was published in 1953 in Colliers

Magazine, a photograph shows John Steinbeck crouching beside the two Hamilton headstones here in Tamlaghtfinlagan Church.

This beautiful elegant church commissioned by the Earl Bishop Frederick Hervey was built circa 1790s, the first minister was Rev. Henry Bruce (later to inherit Downhill Desmesne), he was the brother of Frideswide Mussenden for whom Mussenden Temple at Downhill was named.

Also buried here are Jane Ross and Jimmy McCurry : the fiddler she heard playing that wonderful air which we know today as Danny Boy, Londonderry Air or O'Cahans Lament.



May 30, 2024

Tamlaghtfinlagan church is said to trace its name back to Findluganus, the first Abbot of an Abbey founded nearby in 580AD.

Acknowledgment -

Based on the web site Causeway Coastal Route
www.causewaycoastalroute.com

This includes a section for local accommodation under the 'Stay Local' menu.

News



Six soup lunch by 'done-gals' for Christian Aid Week



Join Christian Aid Ireland in saying well ‘done-gals’ to the wonderful Donegal women who raised almost €1,300 with their Christian Aid Week soup lunch.

Volunteers from Carnone Presbyterian Church, located between Castlefinn and Convoy in the east of the county, prepared six varieties of home-made soup which they served to members of their congregation after a recent Sunday service, in exchange for a donation to support our work.

Special Christian Aid Ireland thanks go to their representative Joanne Kee and all the soup makers. They are also grateful to everyone who supported the event with their donations.



Donegal girls - L-R, Vicki Wallace, Alannah Kee, Joanne Kee, Miriam Gallagher and Amanda Buchanan

Muckamore Presbyterian Church thanks musical director for 50 years of service

Last weekend Muckamore Presbyterian Church took the opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to God for Jane Hill who marks 50 years as their musical director.

“Jane has been devoted in her services to our musical worship, encouraged and developed singers and musicians, has continually introduced our church family to the best of contemporary hymns/songs and unearthed the greatest of traditional praise.”



On Friday, the choir and praise group held a dinner with entertainment, and on Sunday during worship gathering, the Elders were able to publicly acknowledge the congregation's gratitude.

Church support for Parkinsons

The Ulster District Women's League of the Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. raised a remarkable £4000 towards the work of Parkinson's UK in Northern Ireland.

Parkinsons NI Community Fundraiser Nicola McClure (centre) is pictured with their committee members. She said, "It was a pleasure to meet with the Ulster District



Women's League and receive a generous donation towards our work in Northern Ireland. Thank you to everyone who donated. Keep up the great work!"

Trocaire at St John's Parish, Falls Road

"Great conversation with David O'Hare and Peter Heaney from Trocaire discussing a variety of issues.

"Looking forward to how we develop some of the social justice matters we talked about in order to make a difference in our world.

Taking part were Conor Neeson, David O'Hare, Catherine Largey, Fr Martin Magill and Peter Heaney.

Canadian Anglicans seek just peace in Palestine and Israel



Anglicans joined other people of faith earlier this month in Ottawa for a prayer vigil and a news conference on Parliament Hill, to call for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

Papal medal awarded to Belfast woman for service to the Catholic Church

Pope Francis has awarded the Benemerenti medal for service to the Catholic Church to a Belfast woman.

Rita Goldsmith was formally presented with the award by the Bishop of Down and Connor Bishop Alan McGuckian at a ceremony this week.



She was nominated by Fr Eugene O'Neill and the parish community at St Patrick's Church in Belfast in recognition of her "long and untiring service" to the Catholic community of Belfast.

Bishop McGuckian noted Ms Goldsmith's constant and devoted living vocation as a Christian musician.



He said at the heart of the award was her dedicated service to the Sacred Liturgy and ministry of music not only in St Patrick's, but in Clonard Monastery and many parishes where she has provided music.

The Benemerenti Medal was first awarded by Pope Pius VI in the 1700s, as a military decoration.

It is now a mark of recognition to civil, military, lay and clergy in service of the Catholic Church.

Earlier this month, singer and former MEP Dana Rosemary Scallon was conferred with a Papal honour, in recognition of her service to the Catholic Church.

Dana became the 14th Dame to be conferred in Ireland, after her investiture.

Church of England appoints independent agency to investigate racist incidents

Race Equality First has been appointed to review the Church of England's systems for handling racist incidents.

The independent agency will assess the effectiveness of current policies and procedures. Although it won't resolve specific complaints, it will provide confidential counselling and independent advice.

Improving complaints handling was a key recommendation in the 2020 report 'From Lament to Action: The Report of the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce'.

Speaking to Premier Christian News, Guy Hewitt, the Church's director of racial justice said the report "highlighted this issue as one of its priorities" and emphasised that addressing it is crucial "to show there is transparency and accountability in the process".

Members of the Global Majority Heritage (GMH) / UK Minoritised Ethnic (UKME) communities who have experienced racism or those in the wider Church community who have knowledge of such, are encouraged to contact Race Equality First.

"Sadly, anecdotal evidence suggested that such occurrences are more common than appreciated," Guy Hewitt, the Church's director of racial justice continued.

"For our GMH/UKME communities, being stereotyped, overlooked, or excluded, or facing harassment, hostile comments or microaggression are an all-too-common experience. Leaving such behaviours unchallenged or brushed under the carpet is seriously damaging both to individuals and our faith community."

Race Equality First is part the Race Equality Foundation, a national charity addressing racial inequality in public services.

Pope kicks off 'World Children's Day' at Rome's Olympic Stadium

Pope Francis appeared at Rome's Olympic Stadium on Saturday to provide a symbolic kick-off to a soccer match as part of celebrations for a Vatican-hosted "World Children's Day" festival.

Francis, 87, who has suffered from bouts of poor health, stood up from his chair by the side of the pitch as the ball was presented to him by a child accompanied by former Italian national team goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

The pope, who is from Argentina and a keen soccer fan, gave the ball a gentle tap with his foot before watching the action unfold in a brief kickabout on the field at the stadium, home to the city's professional clubs AS Roma and Lazio.

The match ball was later handed back to the pope for him to sign.

In response to a question from a child, the pope said he had been very happy when Argentina won the World Cup in 2022.

But he said he had not enjoyed the notorious handball by Diego Maradona that helped them on their way to victory in the 1986 World Cup. Maradona famously remarked at the time that the quarter-final goal against England was scored "a little with the head of Maradona, a little with the hand of God".

Appearing in high spirits, Francis greeted children representing more than 100 countries, handing out sweets and encouraging those in the stadium to shake hands with each other in a gesture of peace.

Francis had earlier held an audience at the Vatican with children from war-hit regions, including Palestinians and Ukrainians.

The celebrations for the Vatican's inaugural "World Children's Day" continued on Sunday with a special mass at the Vatican followed by a reading by Italian actor Roberto Benigni.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

ICCJ Seelisberg Prize recognises Dr Edward Kessler

The International Council of Christians and Jews has recognised a UK pioneer for its prestigious annual prize, the Seelisberg Prize.

Dr Edward Kessler, founder of the Woolf Institute in Cambridge, has written or edited 12 books and is a prolific media commentator on interfaith issues. ICCJ is the international umbrella organisation of which the Council of Christians and Jews (UK) is a part.

‘This prize highlights the international significance not only of Prof Kessler’s work but also the significance of the UK’s interfaith dialogue context’, said CCJ Chair Bishop Sarah Bullock. ‘Dr Kessler deserves credit for enriching relations between faiths in the UK and this award is richly deserved’.

The Seelisberg Prize is named in memory of the ground-breaking gathering that occurred in the small Swiss village of Seelisberg from 30 July to 5 August 1947 to address perennial Christian teachings of contempt for Jews and Judaism and is widely recognized as inaugurating the transformation in relations between Jews and Christians that has unfolded over the past seventy years.

For full information, visit <https://www.iccj.org/article/edward-kessler-to-be-awarded-2024-seelisberg-prize.html>

Benburb Priory bookshop

The Priory Bookshop which was previously located in the craft shop has now moved to the Library within the Priory House. The Bookshop is open, Monday to Saturday from 11am - 4pm.

“Please feel free to visit and browse our collection of used books, while there we invite you to take a moment and have a seat in our reading corner to enjoy this remarkable Library. All proceeds from sales of books go towards the upkeep of The Priory.

“Many thanks to those who have kindly donated books to the Bookshop, very much appreciated”.

SUMMER ORGAN CONCERTS 2024

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, DÚN LAOGHAIRE

9 JUNE – 25 AUGUST
SUNDAYS at 8.00pm



dún laoghaire
summer
ORGAN
concerts



50th
ANNUAL SERIES

9 JUNE
Gerard Gillen

16 JUNE
Éric Lebrun
in association with Waterford International Organ Festival



23 JUNE
Mona Rozdestvenskyte
Pipeworks

30 JUNE
Andrew Forbes

7 JULY
David O'Shea (organ) & Daire Halpin (soprano)

14 JULY
Raymond O'Donnell (organ)
Michael Vignoles (pipes) & Schola Gregoriana Maynooth

21 JULY
Joonho Park

28 JULY
David Grealy

4 AUGUST
Judit Máté (organ) & Gyula Nagy (baritone)

11 AUGUST
Ilaria Centorino

18 AUGUST
Simon Harden

25 AUGUST
David Adams



arts
council
ealaíon



funding
music

Admission €15 / €12
dunlaoghaireorganconcerts.ie
dunlaoghaireorganconcerts@gmail.com

St. Mark's Parish Church, Portadown. 7.30pm, Friday 31st May, 2024
Admission: FREE (a retiring collection will be taken)

English Organ Music on Favourite Hymn Tunes

Including music by
W. T. Best, Lloyd Webber, Purcell, Stanford,
Vaughan Williams, Whitlock, Willcocks.
Orly Watson, Organist



Orly Watson will play a selection of English music based on
hymn tunes. He will also improvise on favourite hymns
selected by the audience.

In the media

Belfast Telegraph - 'Respectable' society must not fall into fear-based politics Archbishop John McDowell writes

In a world of challenges, the law of love must trump paranoia

The contemporary world faces a range of challenges which in number and intensity is probably historically unique.

One reaction to this could be that of fear. But fear-based and division-generating politics is not real politics. It is playing with paranoia.

It is the opposite of what we need and it will cause untold harm to ourselves, ultimately, as well as to society as a whole.

Playing with paranoia is currently the domain of populists of both left and right. But it is all too easy for elites and wider 'respectable' society to become infected by it.

Many interests can become vested in maintaining division rather than in building community. It has been the mark of statesmen and women in history to identify problems and injustices and solve them. It has become the mark of many in public life today to identify injustices and problems and exploit them.

Populist politicians and agitators exploit the complex scale of the challenges we face, not with policies but with slogans. Slogans such as “Ireland is full”. Well, Ireland is not full.

Ireland, north and south, has been right to welcome migrants and asylum seekers. In one sense, such incomers made Ireland Catholic, as in universal and diverse, in a way we hadn't been before.

Perhaps not enough thought was given to how to integrate newcomers and their needs into society, and what that means for social and physical infrastructure.

That oversight does not excuse us from our responsibility to seek justice for our neighbour. Political and policy failures cannot disapply the law of love.

If the wellbeing of our neighbour (wherever they may have come from) is becoming more precarious, then we are called through the law of love to work even harder for justice.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and all your strength, and your neighbour as yourself.”

These words are a summary of the whole revelation of the nature of God. And the way we are called to respond is known as the law of love. But what is meant by that and how does it apply?

Just to be clear, love in this sense is not a vague warm feeling nor intense romantic passion. Love is our goodwill and benevolence towards our neighbours. Love is what binds people together against hatred and dishonesty. It is powerful; it requires courage.

The demand to love God calls for absolute surrender (“you shall love the Lord your God with all your...”).

But the love of our neighbour is relative and limited; we are to love them as ourselves.

For a society which includes ourselves and our neighbours, both may be required to temper their group's interest in the cause of the common good.

Wider loyalties should act as a check on narrower ones.

Therefore, in societal terms, the way of love lies through reasonable claim and just award; in short, through justice. So long as society is organised in groups with diverging interests, love must express itself first in justice.

In his City of God, St Augustine outlines two kinds of human 'belonging-together'.

Do we live by bearing one another's burdens? Or do we live at one another's expense?

Those are the two great human options.

For Augustine if we go, however slowly or fitfully, for the first we are helping to build up the City of God. If we live by any

other principle, it isn't just that we are going for second best, but we are really opting for a form of chaos, and the best we can hope for or achieve is randomly-controlled selfishness.

This is particularly corrosive in the present day.

We are at an important moment not just in Irish or British history, but in world history.

Is it to be a moment of breakdown or a moment of breakthrough?

Neither breakdown or breakthrough are instantaneous or surprise events. They are always carried in the womb of history and are the product of conscious choices.

History is not simply something which must be understood and endured.

History is the process whereby we can make our world more humane and more just.

It is a process which, through conscientious decisions, can produce an "us" that doesn't currently exist, but is latent in the womb.

We can choose to be a people who are deeply involved in the nature of God and one another, whom for that reason abhor the threats of a malevolent fanaticism whose only contribution to community life is bitterness and division.

May 30, 2024

If we are deeply involved in the nature of God, how different our contribution to community life should be — in accordance with the law of love.

Belfast Telegraph 29th May 2024.

Archbishop John McDowell is the Church of Ireland
Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland

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
