

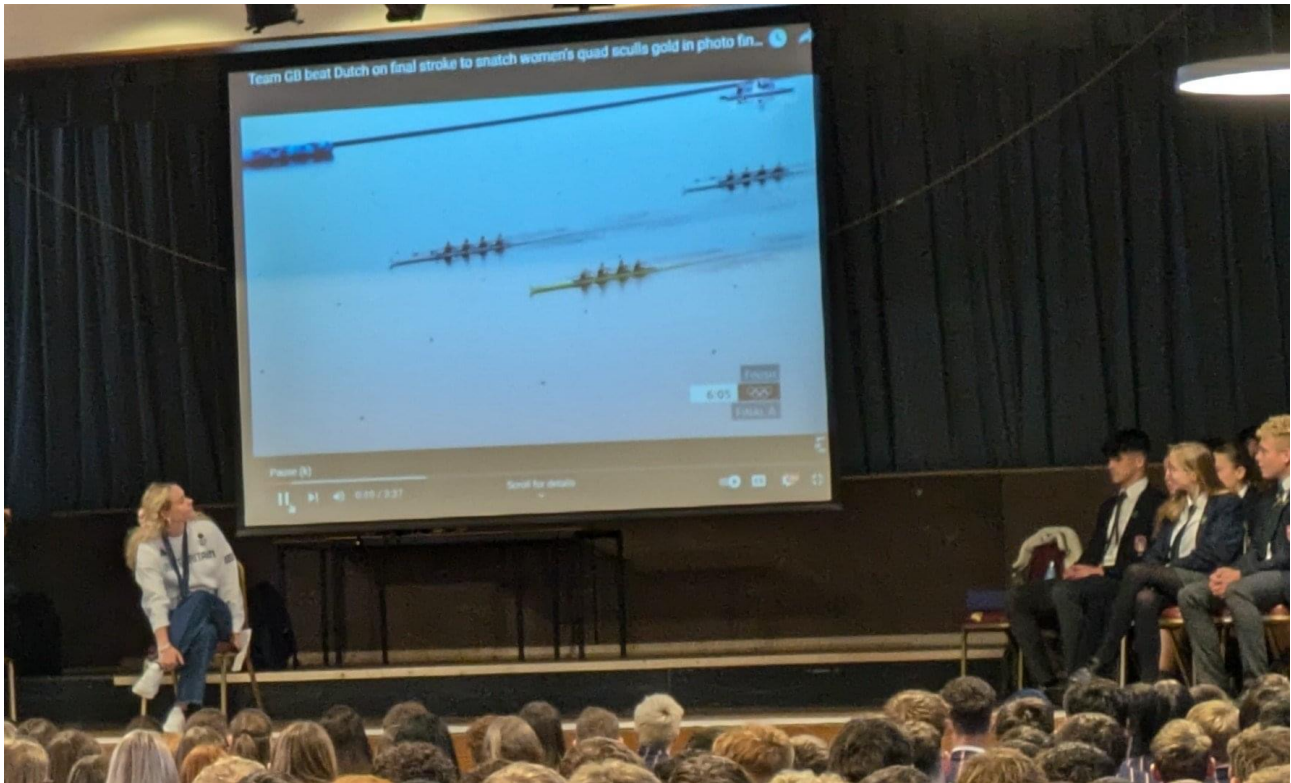
# Church News Ireland

---



**Image of the day – Olympic Gold at Coleraine School**

## Image of the day



## Olympic Gold at Coleraine Grammar School

**Hannah Scott, visited her former school this week to tell what it was like to win her gold medal at the recent Paris Olympics.**

Dr Carruthers welcomed Hannah to the school and gave a brief synopsis of her time at Coleraine High School and then Coleraine Grammar School which culminated in an A and 2 As and an offer to study at Princeton University in America. Princeton is one of the world's top universities and they gave her the opportunity to continue her rowing career. After many years of hard work and determination, first at Bann Rowing club, then Princeton, then with Team GB she

fulfilled her ambition of reaching the Olympics. The pupils in assembly were shown the results of all of her dedication as they watched the final 200m of her boat race which, as everyone knows, ended in success for Hannah and her crew.

Hannah told the enraptured audience about the work that she had to put in to get to this point in her career and reminded everyone of the importance of dedication to academia as well as to extracurricular pursuits.

After her talk some lucky pupils were able to see the gold medal and get their pictures taken with Hannah.

She also stayed to attend the Babel Zoo creative writing club at lunchtime, read a wonderful poem she'd written and became an honorary president. Hannah had been a member of the club when she was at school.

## News

### Play for Christian Aid at Ulster Rugby stadium

**Christian Aid sends bucketloads of love to everyone who came along to help us with their collection outside the Ulster Rugby stadium at the last home match when they raised more than £1,000.**

“We’re also grateful to all the kind rugby fans who gave so generously.



October 2, 2024

“If you can spare an hour and you’d like to ‘try’ your hand at fundraising, the next rugby collection is on Friday 18 October at 6.30 pm. Just drop us an email at - [belfast@christian-aid.org](mailto:belfast@christian-aid.org).





## Services according to the Book of Common Prayer are growing and flourishing

**Prayer Book Society - Not just at St Giles-in-the-Fields, but at so many of our Corporate Members (and beyond!) services according to the Book of Common Prayer are growing and flourishing!**

To find out more about this exciting trend and PBS plans for the future, visit: [pbs.org.uk/pbs-futures/](https://pbs.org.uk/pbs-futures/)

## Boys accused of setting fire to Co Antrim church won't be prosecuted



October 2, 2024

## **Three young boys accused of setting fire to a Co Antrim church are no longer facing prosecution - Alan Erwin writes in the Belfast Telegraph.**

The trio, two aged 11 and a 10-year-old, had been charged with arson over the blaze which swept through The Church of the Holy Name in Greenisland on September 1.

But criminal proceedings were ended before they were set to make their first court appearances.

The boys will instead be dealt with through a youth diversionary programme aimed at achieving a restorative outcome.





October 2, 2024

Police said the decision involved taking into account their ages and any views expressed by potential victims.

During the blaze an adjoining parish hall at the site on Station Road also went up in flames.

The fire, which destroyed roofing and caused extensive smoke and water damage to the Church of Ireland buildings, was not treated as a racially motivated hate crime.

All three boys had been expected to attend Belfast Youth Court today for the first stage in the case.

However, it is understood criminal proceedings against them were withdrawn last week.

There was no mention of the case during yesterday's court session.

In a statement issued last night, the PSNI confirmed: "Three boys, two aged 11 and one aged 10, charged with arson in relation to a fire at a church and church hall in Greenisland



on Sunday 1 will now be dealt with via a Youth Engagement Clinic for restorative outcomes.

“The decision was made following consideration and consultation with criminal justice partners, taking into account a range of factors, including the age of the children involved. The views of victims are also an important element in this Youth Engagement Process.

“Youth Engagement Clinics are a collaborative effort, led by the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Youth Diversion Officers, involving the young offender, their parent or guardian, Youth Justice Agency representatives, and if applicable, the victim.”

## **Episcopal Diocese of Georgia responds to Hurricane Helene**







**“Hurricane Helene impacted every corner of the Diocese of Georgia and we have a lot of clean up ahead of us in many areas...**

“Honey Creek has a lot of trees down, but is otherwise okay.

“There is significant tree damage in so many homes and at two churches - St. Andrew’s in Douglas and St. Bartholomew’s in Savannah. St. Bart’s is pictured here. A pecan tree hit a power pole and crushed into the sanctuary roof. Church Insurance is already working on that claim.

“We are working with Episcopal Relief and Development on a grant to assist us in providing direct aid to the neediest neighbors in our communities. More information will be available on that soon”.

## Thieves steal icon of Virgin and Child from college chapel

**A gilded icon of the Virgin and Child has been stolen from a Cambridge college chapel.**

The artwork, thought to be worth £5,000, was taken from the 15th-century Chapel of Magdalene College on Sept 24 or 25, police said.

Depicting the Virgin and Child, this type of church art is known as the Mother of the God of the Passion and shows Mary and the baby Jesus as well as angels bearing the instruments of Christ's crucifixion.

The image was created by the icon-writer Dom Anselm Shobrook, who is an Anglican monk at the Benedictine monastery at Alton in Hampshire.

The work, painted on a wooden board with gold-leafed background and a red border, was donated to the chapel by Prof Eamon Duffy in 2009 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of his election as a







## Topper in Comber

fellow. It measures about 35cm x 25cm and is 2.5cm thick.

Pc Emily-Jayne Matthews, from the Cambridge Neighbourhood Team, said: “The icon holds great value to those who are connected with it.

“We would like to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time and may have seen anything suspicious.

“We would also like to hear from anyone who may have seen the item for sale or may know of its whereabouts.”

The chapel, which is situated at the heart of the college and is open daily for prayer and reflection, was built in the 1470s. It is also a place of worship for the Benedictine monks of Alton Abbey.

## **Irish Bishops attending Synod on Synodality in Rome**

**Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick, and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Raphoe, are attending the second and final session of the 16th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican.**

This Synod on Synodality is being attended by Church representatives from around the world and is sitting from 2 - 27 October on the theme: 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission'.

Also in attendance will be Rev Professor Eamon Conway, a priest of the Archdiocese of Tuam, who will serve the Synod as an 'Expert and Facilitator', Sister Mary Teresa Barron, OLA, President of the International Union of Superiors General, and Sister Patricia Murray IBVM, Executive Secretary of the International Union of Superiors General.

In an interview with Julieann Moran, General Secretary of the Synodal Pathway in Ireland, Bishop Leahy spoke about the ongoing synodal process saying, "An important aspect



that has emerged in the last two or three years, and more specifically since the last assembly in October 2023 is the realisation that synodality, or journeying together, isn't just about this a synod event or making several decisions in a month. It's more about the process; about where we have moved from an understanding of synodality to actually a continuous process in the life of the Church, of working together to discern and understand what God wants of us."

Reflecting on how his experience from last year will prepare him for this assembly Bishop McGuckian said, "The methodology was hugely significant. We gathered in Rome for four weeks, we used Conversations in the Spirit - a particular way of being around a table, where everyone





**Second Session of the Synod is underway with 368 voting participants, including 54 women. Discussions cover themes like synodal governance, digital mission, and ecumenical journey. Pope Francis will lead an ecumenical prayer vigil on Oct 11.**



speaks in their turn and everyone listens respectfully. There was a genuine listening for what the Spirit was saying in my heart, as I listened to others. Then there was an effort to find where the convergences were, as well as the divergences. To do that all day every day for three or four weeks was quite transformative for me personally".... "That is a huge take away, that I have brought home and used and have found extremely enriching. I now feel going back this year that I have that experience behind me, and that this year I bring a capacity, or aptitude for Conversations in the Spirit."

Speaking about the synodal process, Ms Moran said: "We have journeyed together in this universal process for three years, and thanks to the voices of the People of God in Ireland and around the world, remarkable moments have shaped our path. From local communities to global platforms, synodal listening has moved through diocesan, national, and continental stages, fostering continuous dialogue with the Universal Church. This synodal process is slowly but surely fostering participation and co-responsibility, and the discernment of the *Pobal Dé* has been at the heart of the journey, guiding the mission of the Body of Christ into the future. I look forward to the continued participation of all baptised as we put into practice the outcomes from the Synod."

The assembly members prepared for the second session of the Synod with a two-day spiritual retreat, which concluded with a penitential service in St Peter's Basilica on the evening of 1 October. The work of the second session got underway after the opening Mass on the morning of October 2, with the final Mass scheduled for the morning of October 27.

The task of the second session is to complete the discernment begun at the first session and offer the result of this discernment to Pope Francis in a final document.

## Cathedral Calls

### Choral Evensong featuring Phillip Moore at the Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham, Alabama

**The Cathedral Church of the Advent heartily welcomes Philip Moore to lead a special service of Choral Evensong tomorrow Thursday, October 3, at 5:30 p.m. in the Nave.**

Organist Emeritus of York Minster, Philip Moore served as Organist and Master of the Music there from 1983 to 2008, succeeding Francis Jackson and Edward Bairstow. His compositions are many, including two commissioned works for Birmingham Alabama Cathedral Choir generously given by the St. Cecilia Fund. This service will include Moore's own music, as well as works by his York Minster predecessors. All are invited to come and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and find rest in the gospel message.

This service will also be streamed live at [AdventBirmingham.org/Live](https://AdventBirmingham.org/Live).





# 'First Steps' Parent & Toddler Group

**Mondays at 10am  
in the Cathedral Hall**

**Coming soon...**



## **First Steps at Dromore Cathedral**

**The Cathedral Hall doors will be open to welcome mums, childminders, babies and toddlers along to our new ministry “First Steps”.**

“We are delighted to be able to provide the community with this new group. First Steps will run every Monday morning from 10am to 11.30am.

October 2, 2024

“If you know of anyone who could avail of the group, please do let them know of our starting date and times. For more details contact Christine Shanks”.



## **Westminster Abbey recalls Stanford's birthday in Dublin**



## Clergy and ministry



**‘YOUR LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN SHOULD  
MAKE NON-BELIEVERS QUESTION  
THEIR DISBELIEF IN GOD.’**

**– DIETRICH BONHOEFFER**

## Bonhoeffer in Drumbo

**Comment on social media in response to post above -**  
You should catch up with Rev Dr Ryan David Hawk! He’s  
our Curate in Ballylesson. He did his thesis on

October 2, 2024

Bonhoeffer...and was invited to the conference in Australia back in January!

Mervyn Jamison, rector.

## Poem for today

### Postscript

**By Seamus Heaney**

And some time make the time to drive out west  
Into County Clare, along the Flaggy Shore,  
In September or October, when the wind  
And the light are working off each other  
So that the ocean on one side is wild  
With foam and glitter, and inland among stones  
The surface of a slate-grey lake is lit  
By the earthed lightning of a flock of swans,  
Their feathers roughed and ruffling, white on white,  
Their fully grown headstrong-looking heads  
Tucked or cresting or busy underwater.  
Useless to think you'll park and capture it  
More thoroughly. You are neither here nor there,  
A hurry through which known and strange things pass  
As big soft buffetings come at the car sideways  
And catch the heart off guard and blow it open.

## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

---

# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

**Posted early Monday to Saturday**

**Please share**