

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Season of Creation, Galway

September 27, 2024

Image of the day

Galway Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Season of Creation



On Sunday 22nd September, churches from Galway gathered together for an Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Season of Creation, in the



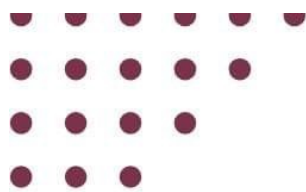


Franciscan Abbey Garden. This year's theme is to hope and act with creation.

The service was led by Fr Gabriel and representatives from other churches in Galway.

The prayer service was followed by a blessing of pets and Guide dogs for the blind.

News



CHURCH FUNDRAISER



DONATE



29th September 2024

9:00AM – 9:00PM



How You Can Help

Attend event ☒

Donate to link ☒

Volunteer ☒



The Journey Continues

Location
Greenisland FC



Football Club's 12 Hour Sponsored Cycle in aid of Greenisland Parish

Members of Greenisland Football Club will be participating in a 12 Hour Sponsored Cycle, in aid of Church of Ireland Greenisland Parish on Sunday 29th September from 9am to 9pm

Donate via the link below to assist the rebuild after the devastating, recent fire

<https://www.paypal.me/Greenislandfc>

Bishop returns to his former school



Bishop Alan McGuckian of Down and Connor visited St Killians College on Wednesday.

The new Bishop of the Diocese was a past pupil of Garron Tower which St Killians superseded. Bishop McGuckian celebrated Mass with Year 8 and 14 pupils and afterwards



met staff, had a Q&A session with Year 8 pupils, talking about his own faith identity and journey towards priesthood and now Bishop of his home diocese. “Thank you Bishop McGuckian it was a really lovely day” the school posted.

Ballycrochan Presbyterian Church 50th anniversary celebration

On Sunday 29th September the congregation will be celebrating 50 years as Ballycrochan Presbyterian Church.

They write - “We want to give thanks to God for His faithfulness to us from small beginnings in a 'hut' on



Donaghadee Road in 1974, through the last 50 years, to where we are now in 2024.



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“Our celebration service will be at 11.00 AM when we will be joined by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Richard Murray.

“There will be displays, photos and videos to enjoy so please join us to celebrate this important milestone in our congregation's history and look forward to what God will do in the future. Everyone welcome”

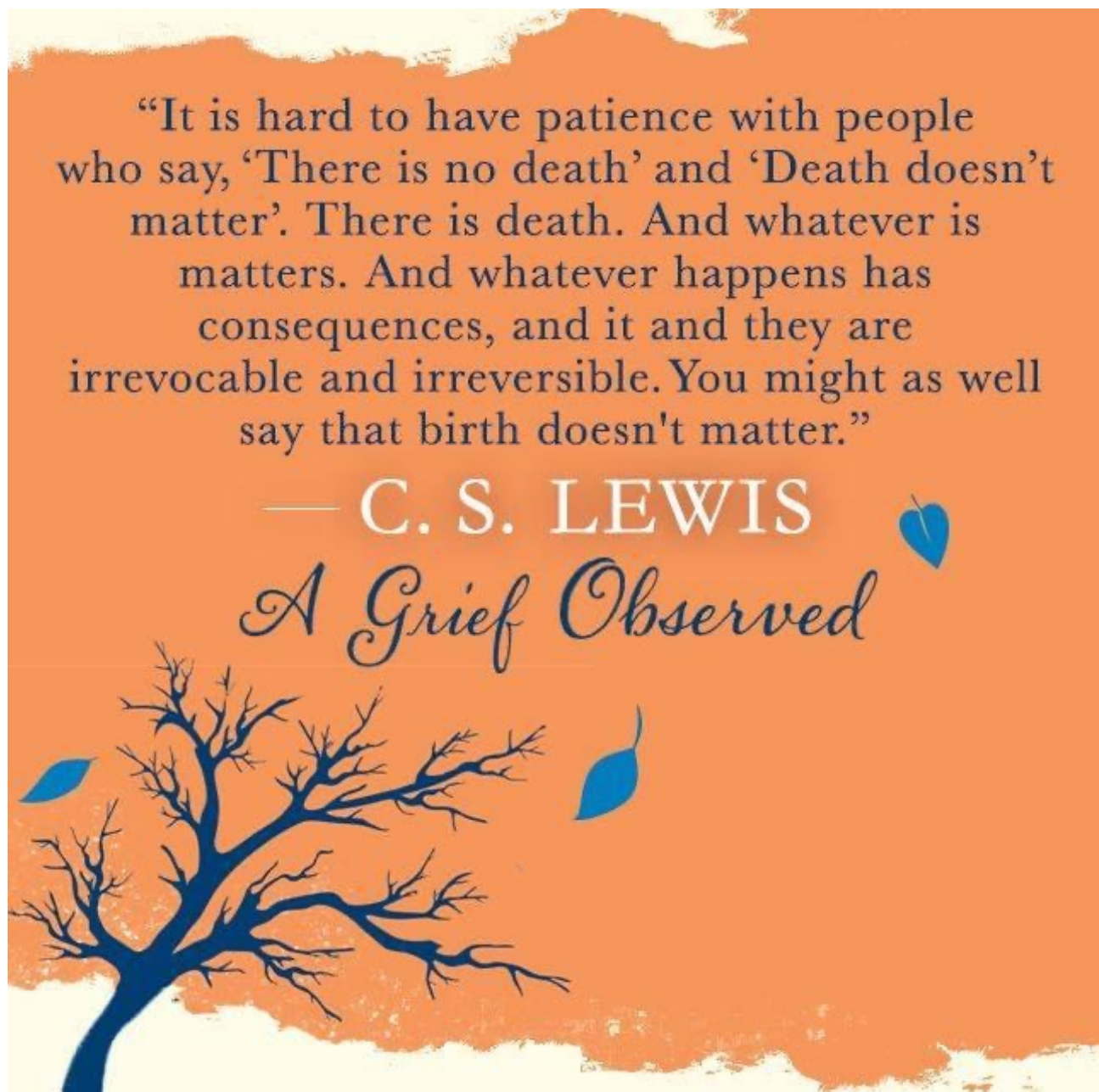
Thanks for forty years service to Christian Aid which raised 50K



Christian Aid Ireland has said a huge thank you to Maura Pringle of St Malachy's, Hillsborough Parish Church in County Down.

Maura is stepping down after almost 40 years as the Christian Aid rep. During those years, she helped raise £50,000 for our work by organising soup lunches, coffee mornings and house-to-house collections.

Maura was among around 60 supporters invited to a reception at St Patrick's Drumbeg Church to celebrate their achievement in raising more than £360,000 for Christian Aid Week this year.



Maura, who worked as a cartographer at Queen's University until her retirement in 2013, explained why she supports Christian Aid: "I love the charity's strapline 'we believe in life before death'. By giving to Christian Aid, you know you're making a difference. When people are hungry or in desperate need, we have to get alongside them and show them God's love in a practical way."

Christian Aid Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett thanked Maura for volunteering her time for almost four decades. She paid this tribute to her: "Maura has shown great kindness in giving her time to raise funds to help people living in extreme poverty in some of the world's poorest countries, and she's also helping to strengthen the bonds of friendship and community here at home. People like Maura make the world a better place."

Christian Aid is grateful to everyone who helped Maura with her fundraising events and to all those who gave so generously.

St. Mochonog's 200 year celebrations

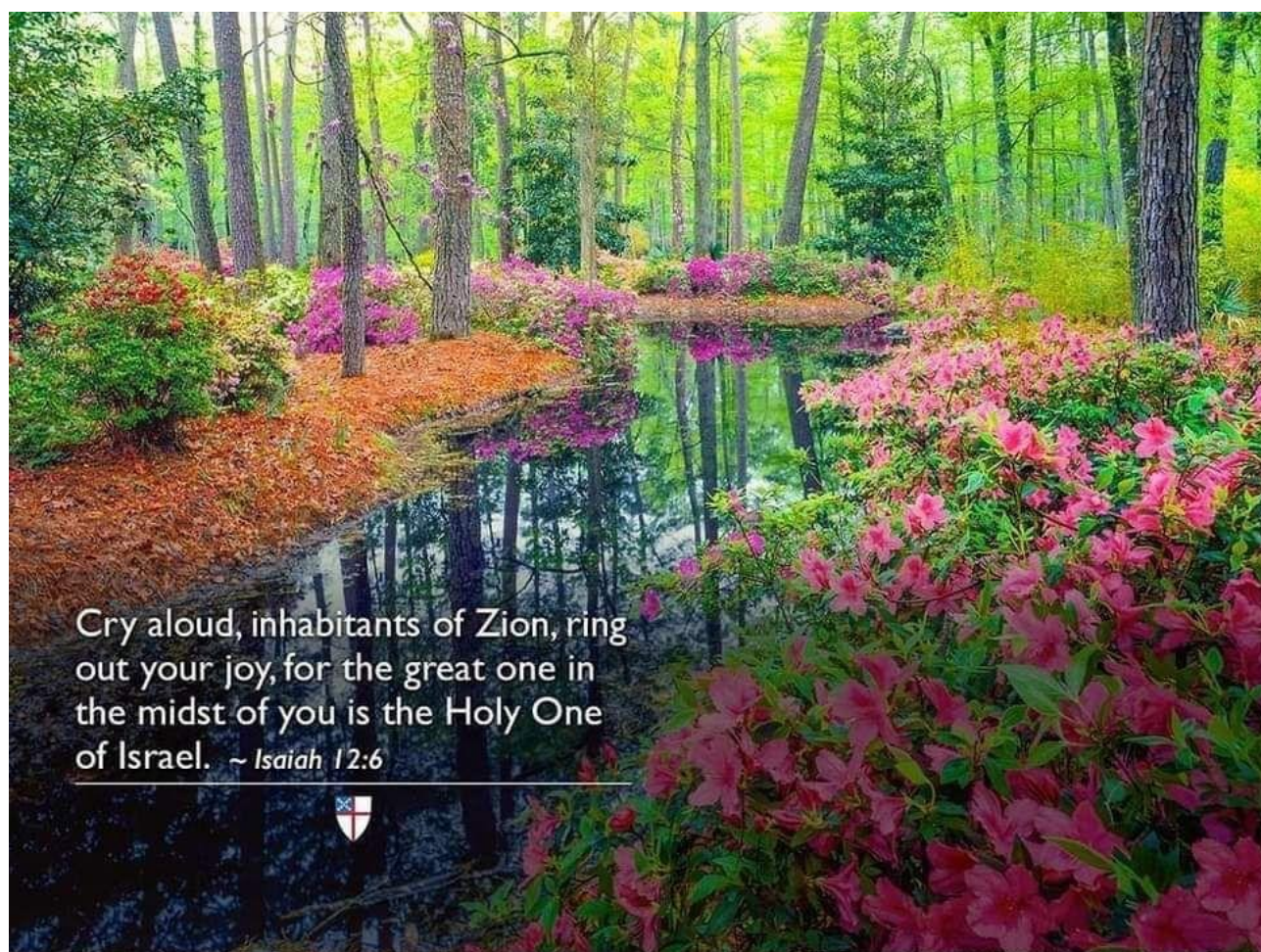
A very special occasion took place last Sunday in St. Mochonog's Church Kilmacanogue at the 10am Mass to mark 200 years of Community Worship.

The guest of honour and main Celebrant was His Grace Archbishop Dermot Farrell, who was joined by Fr .Bernard Kennedy PP, Fr. Owen Lynch, Fr. Hyacinth and Fr. Anthony.

Archbishop Farrell spoke of the huge concern of vocations for the Priesthood with the average age of a priest in the Dublin dioceses now 71 and 250 priests for 500 Parishes. The Church was beautifully decorated and adorned with seasonal flowers, and it was really gratifying to see the number of people who were in attendance.

Light refreshments were served in the hall by the ever-loyal Senior Citizens group, and a special exhibition of photographs and local artefacts was unveiled by His Grace, who was ably assisted by Sean Brady chorister, historian and nonagenarian.

This wonderful display of photos is available to view in the Parish Hall between 10am and 4pm every day is week and



Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. ~ Isaiah 12:6



well worth a visit to look at some of the great memories, occasions, and characters in the village over the years.

Cathedral Calls

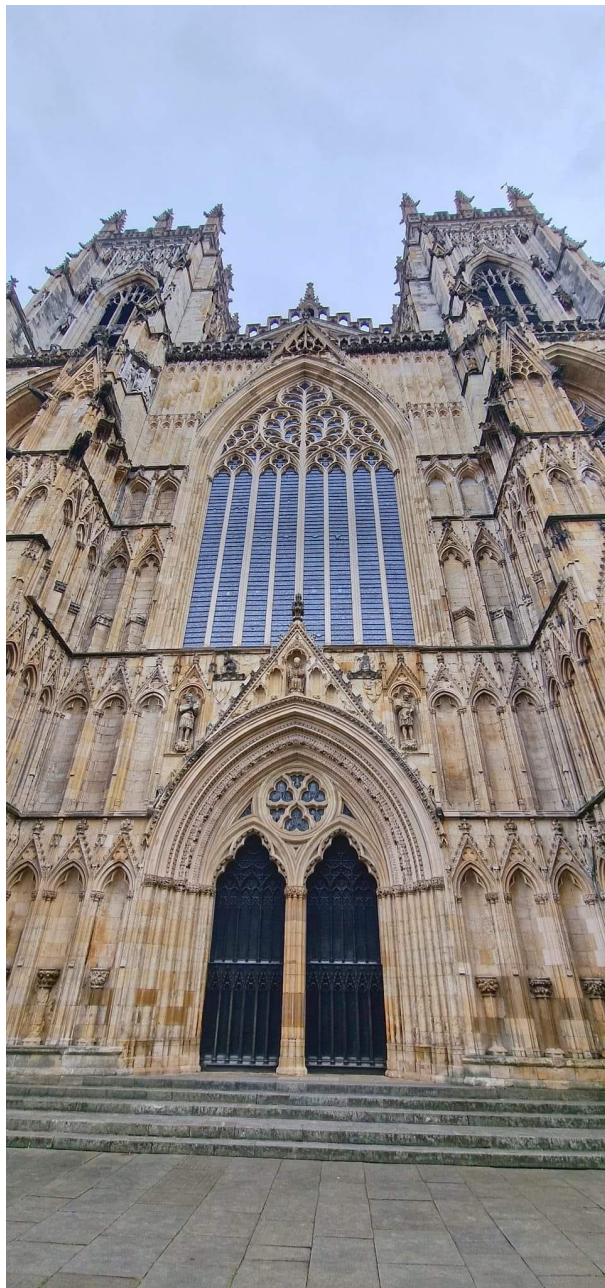
York Minster

York Minster, formally the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter in York.

The minster is the seat of the archbishop of York, the second-highest office of the Church of England, and is the mother church for the diocese of York and the province of York.

It is administered by its dean and chapter. The minster is a Grade I listed building and a scheduled monument. The first record of a church on the site dates to 627; the title "minster" also dates to the Anglo-Saxon period, originally denoting a missionary teaching church and now an honorific.





The minster undercroft contains re-used fabric of c. 1160, but the bulk of the building was constructed between 1220 and 1472. It consists of Early English Gothic north and south transepts, a Decorated Gothic nave and chapter house, and a Perpendicular Gothic eastern arm and central tower.

The minster retains most of its medieval stained glass, a significant survival among European churches. The east window, which depicts the Last Judgment, is the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world. The north transept contains the Five Sisters window, which consists of five lancets, each

over 53 feet high, filled with grisaille glass. A bishop of York was summoned to the Council of Arles in 314, indicating the presence of a Christian community in York at this time; however, archaeological evidence of Christianity in Roman York is limited.

The first recorded church was a wooden structure built hurriedly in 627 to provide a place to baptise Edwin, King of Northumbria. The location of this church, and its pre-1080

successors, is unknown. It was probably in or beside the old Roman principia, (the military headquarters), which may have been used by the king when in residence in York.

Archaeological evidence indicates the principia was located partly beneath the post-1080 Minister site, but excavations undertaken in 1967-73 found no remains of the pre-1080 churches. It can therefore be inferred that Edwin's church, and its immediate successors, was near the current Minster (possibly to the north, underneath the modern Dean's Park) but not directly on the same site.



Saint Patrick's Cathedral a Great Place To Work again

“We are thrilled to announce that Saint Patrick's Cathedral (Dublin) has been certified as a Great Place To Work for the second year running.

“This incredible achievement wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our amazing team. Thank you to everyone who helps make Saint Patrick's Cathedral such a special place.

“Together, we continue to preserve and celebrate our shared history and heritage”.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



A lunchtime of Flute Mastery with Richard Douglas

Christ Church Londonderry invite you to a special flute recital featuring

Richard Douglas MBE, an acclaimed flutist, teacher, and conductor who has captivated audiences across the UK.

Having performed with a variety of ensembles, Richard brings his signature elegance and passion to the stage, showcasing timeless concertos by Mozart, Vivaldi, Mercadante, and J.S. Bach.

Awarded an MBE in the 2018 New Year Honours List, Richard is not only an extraordinary performer but also a cherished musical educator. Don't miss this unique opportunity to witness his talents live.

Date: 2nd October. Location: Christ Church (Infirmary Road, Derry/Londonderry) Time: 13:10.

Entry is free (with a retiring collection). "Come along and indulge in a lunchtime of classical flute music!"

Belfast Community Gospel Choir in Newcastle

**Don't miss Belfast Community Gospel Choir
In association with Donard Methodist Church.**

Venue...Newcastle Community Cinema 19th October 7pm.
Tickets from NCC website or direct from Ticket Source

In the media

Ireland backs down on elements of hate speech law - Daily Telegraph

Parts of Bill designed to protect trans people ‘could have stifled freedom of expression’, James Crisp writes.

Transphobic “hate speech” will not be criminalised in Ireland after ministers backed down over the law.

The government had proposed punishments for hate speech as part of a new Bill. However, critics including Elon Musk said the provisions were loosely defined and could have been used to jail campaigners against transgender women using female toilets.

The hate speech element of the Bill has now been shelved following claims it could have stifled freedom of expression. It will still go before parliament in the coming weeks, The Irish Times reported, and keeps measures introducing harsher sentences for crimes aggravated by discrimination, including against trans and non-binary people.

If it passes, an assault on a transgender person will receive a harsher sentence if it is motivated by hatred. Helen McEntee, the Irish justice minister, previously blamed “deliberate misinformation and distortion, including from

fringe commentators and US-based social media personalities” for the controversy over the laws.

‘If someone is assaulted because they are transgender, that is a hate crime’

After the climbdown, she admitted: “The incitement to hatred element [of the Bill] does not have a consensus, so that will be dealt with at a later stage.”

The proposed legislation also still retains the contentious extension of the definition of gender to include “the person’s preferred gender, or with which the person identifies, and includes transgender and a gender other than those of male and female”.

The changes to the Bill are designed to quell backbench disquiet but several MPs are uneasy about the government getting involved in a debate over how many genders there are.

Senator Michael McDowell, a former deputy prime minister, led the revolt against the Bill last year. He argued that the new legislation gave no clarity on the extended definition of gender identities, which could impact gender balance laws and carry other legal risks.

“If the government wishes to provide heavier punishment for victims of crime committed because they are victimised as transgender, let them simply say that,” he said. “There is no problem with doing so. There is no case or need for creating a multiplicity of unspecified subjective statuses described as genders.”

He warned the Bill would be the first to recognise any gender other than male or female in Irish law and said that the country's constitution only recognised two genders.

Ireland's Department of Justice confirmed that the gender definitions would remain in the Bill. "If someone is assaulted because they are transgender, that is a hate crime," a spokesman said. "A definition is required to protect that person. It has absolutely no implications outside of this law."

The government first brought the proposed legislation before parliament two years ago and further prioritised tightening anti-hate laws it said were unfit for the social media age last November after an unprecedented night of anti-migrant rioting in Dublin.

26/09/2024

Poem for today

A September Day

By Francis Duggan

A thing of such great beauty to behold
The wattles resplendent in their blooms of gold
The first week of September and Spring is in the air
And in the green park daisies bloom everywhere,
On a day like this 'tis good to be alive
To start your car and go off on a drive
So great to live to see another Spring
To hear the nesting wild birds chirp and sing,
Were I a poet I would write a simple lay
For to celebrate this beautiful Spring day

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To celebrate the beauty I can see
Where the Goddess of Spring has spread her greenery
And the wattles laden in their golden flowers
Look resplendent in these mild September hours.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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