

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Brooklyn Church votive ship links covid and Endurance discovery

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Brooklyn Church votive ship links covid and Endurance

Episcopal Parish reclaims its tradition of votive ships just as Endurance is discovered. See page 13

People and places



Pupils of St Luke's Montenotte raise over €8k for Ukraine Supports

79 pupils in St Luke's NS, O'Mahoney's Avenue raised over €8k to be donated to the renovation of eight vacant houses at Kingston College. These renovated



houses will accommodate at least eight Ukrainian families.

This initiative was a culmination of the student's Lenten Project - to reach out to others. They choose to support the people of Ukraine by arranging a sponsored walk and a school breakfast. The students were encouraged and guided by school staff and supported by their parents.

The staff of St. Luke's National School thank the main breakfast sponsors, The Address Hotel and O'Mahony Brothers Fruit & Veg.

The principal, Ms. Jacqueline Collier, commented, "We agreed with Diocesan secretary, Billy Skuse, that Fifth & Sixth classes would visit Mitchelstown in May and help plant a garden at one of the renovated homes. This will provide the pupils with an opportunity to see, first hand, what their

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donation has contributed to. Congratulations to everyone for this amazing achievement.”

Easter sheep trail and dawn service

After church on Easter Sunday parishioners of St Canice's, Eglinton, were invited to join in an Easter Sheep Trail.



All they had to do was find the sheep somewhere in the church grounds and work out a special Easter message using the letters under each sheep. There was a chocolate egg for everyone taking part. There was also a short Dawn Service at the Faughanvale Community Centre at Greysteel at 7:00am. No breakfast this year, but a nice hot drink to waken folk up!



Antrim Good Friday Walk of Witness

A Walk of Witness that took place on Good Friday. The event started off at High Street, and then to Greystone



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Methodist Church by bus. The walk started at Greystone Methodist Church, then next to All Saint's Parish Church and then to St Comgall's Chapel, and finished at Antrim Castle Gardens with a prayer service.

Parish first aid and defibrillator training

A total of 22 people attended the first aid and defibrillator training held in Derryvullen North Parish Hall (Clogher diocese) on an evening this week.

It was delivered by Mr David Watson who shared his knowledge in a manner that kept us all interested and engaged. We are very grateful to him.

There are several defibrillators in the Irvinestown/Lisnarick area, including the one to the side of Derryvullen North Hall.





Remembering Lyra McKee

The Belfast and District Branch of the National Union of Journalists unveiled a new banner in memory of Lyra McKee on the third anniversary of her killing. The brief ceremony was held on the steps of St Anne's Cathedral Belfast. Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, British PM Theresa May and President Higgins had attended her funeral service in the Cathedral. RIP Lyra. Pictures © courtesy of Kevin Cooper.

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Belfast IDAHOT day service

The annual service in Belfast for IDAHOT day is resuming after a gap of 2 years.

The service will take place at 5pm on Sunday 15th May in St St George's Parish Church on the High St, Belfast.

The Rev Karen Sethuraman, Pastor of SoulSpace Belfast will be the guest preacher for the service. Everyone is very welcome

Presbyterian Historical Society's lecture on leading Ulster-based radical reformer

The Presbyterian Historical Society's 'Robert Allen Memorial Lecture' will be on the topic "William Sharman Crawford and his Interaction with Irish Presbyterians'.

The lecture will be given by Professor Peter Gray of Queen's University, Belfast.

William Sharman Crawford was the leading Ulster-based radical reformer of the mid-19th century and a supporter of land reform and the extension of the franchise. Though Anglican by birth, he obtained strong support from the Presbyterian clergy and tenant farmers of County Down. The talk will look at his interventions in the contentious politics of religion and identity in the 1830s-50s and consider the reasons for his personal conversion to Unitarianism towards the end of his life.

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The lecture will be on Thursday, 5th May 2022 at 8.00 p.m.
in
Union Theological College, 108 Botanic Avenue, Belfast
BT7 1JT

Some car-parking available in the grounds of College and
also at Queen's University McClay Library. Everyone
welcome. Refreshments provided.

[[] <https://www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com>]

News reports



World Meeting of Families
22-26 June 2022

Two month countdown to the World Meeting of Families 2022 in Rome

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Friday 22 April marks the official two month countdown to the 10th World Meeting of Families which will take place in Rome from 22 – 26 June.

Pope Francis is urging Catholics around the globe to take part in the 10th edition of the event. In a video message the Pope said a new format is being planned for the WMOF event, which will have its focus on Rome but be held throughout the world.

“After being postponed for a year due to the pandemic, the desire to meet again is great,” said the Holy Father.

From local to worldwide

He pointed out that past meetings were small events, which were perceived by many families as “something remote, at most followed on television, and unknown to the majority of families.”

Responding to this situation, Pope Francis said the WMOF2022 will take on a special format.

After more than a year of remote working and learning, along with increased awareness of online tools, the meeting will be updated to allow more people to participate, despite physical distance.

“It will be an opportunity provided by Providence to create a worldwide event that can involve all the families that would like to feel part of the ecclesial community,” said the Pope.

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“Rome will be the main venue,” said Pope Francis, “and there will be a number of delegates of family pastoral care participating in the Festival of Families, the Pastoral Congress, and the Holy Mass.”

He added that these events will be broadcast throughout the globe.

Pastoral Kit for the WMOF2022

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life has made available a Pastoral Kit for dioceses and parishes to assist with the local celebration of the 10th World Meeting of Families. As numbers going to Rome for the event are restricted due to the pandemic, Pope Francis has asked that families around the world be given opportunities to feel part of the gathering through events held locally and by engaging with the events in Rome which will all be live-streamed.

The pastoral kit which offers a step by step guide to celebrating the event, can be downloaded here with lots of additional materials available on www.laityfamilylife.va.

WCC encourages prayer for release of archbishops of Aleppo

As the ninth anniversary of the abduction of the archbishops of Aleppo approaches, World Council of Churches acting general secretary Rev Prof Dr Ioan Sauca has called for prayers for the safe return of the two religious leaders, as well as others missing amid conflicts and crises.



Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim and Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi, were kidnapped by gunmen on 23 April 2013 when they were on their way back from the Turkish border to their city of Aleppo.

"These beloved bishops have become iconic figures of all those innocent unjustly detained, tortured, and forcibly disappeared persons, reduced to silence and oblivion, not only in Syria and the region, but all over the world," said Sauca.

"In this time of prayer, reflection and celebration of Easter, we must keep in our prayers the bishops and all those others missing, detained and disappeared so that they are not forgotten and that appeals for their safe return are maintained and amplified."

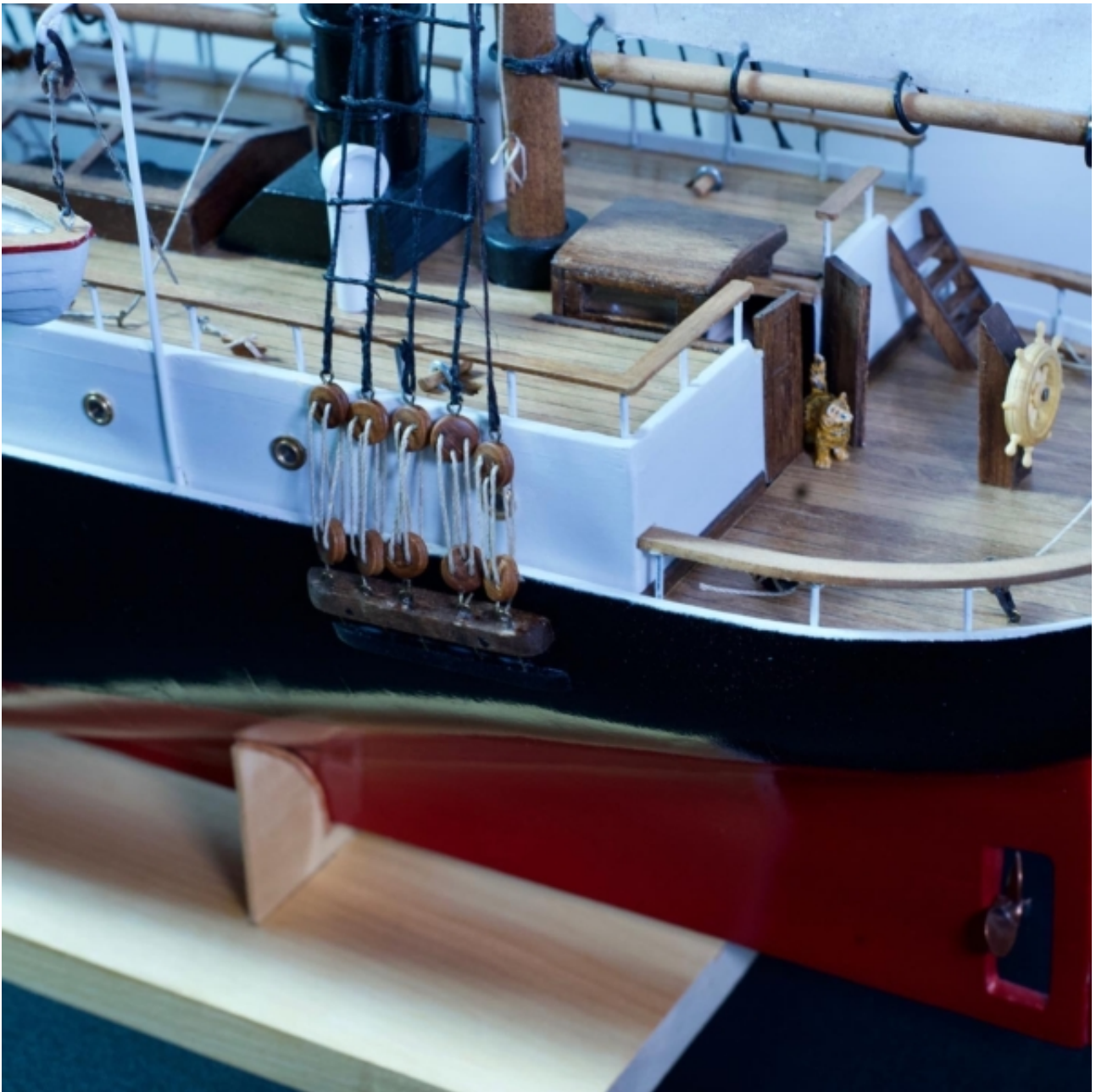
Brooklyn church built a ‘votive ship’ as a symbol of hope amid COVID-19 just before discovery of its inspiration, the long-lost Endurance

A Brooklyn church is expressing thanks for enduring the COVID-19 pandemic by resurrecting an old tradition: building an intricate model ship to hang from its rafters. And in a poetic stroke of fate, the real ship it was modeled after – from Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton’s ill-fated 1914-1916 voyage – was just found after being lost for 106 years.

The new votive ship at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Brooklyn’s Carroll Gardens neighborhood was commissioned by the Very Rev. William Ogburn, rector, months before the discovery of the Endurance on March 5. It now joins another votive ship first hung in the church after World War I in thanksgiving for the safe return of young men from the parish.

The tradition of the votive ship goes back to 15th-century Europe, as sailing was becoming a primary instrument of political and economic power. Seamen and their families started building or commissioning model ships to adorn their churches, either before a voyage as an offering for protection or in thanksgiving for a safe return home from a particularly dangerous journey. They became fixtures of churches in coastal Europe, but the practice never really made it to the United States.

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The small model cat on the new votive ship. The front page photo shows the votive ship on display before it was hoisted up to the rafters of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, New York. Photos: Nathan Taylor

Many young men from the parish served in World War I and saw votive ships for the first time in French churches, Ogburn said, bringing the tradition with them when they returned to St. Paul's. After the war, as many as 12 model

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ships were given to the church and hung from the rafters until 1978, when someone broke into the church and stole all but one. The three-masted ship with the green and white hull had fallen to the floor and broken during the robbery and was left behind.

The ship had been donated by three parish mothers whose sons had survived the torpedoing of the USS President Lincoln in 1918; despite its delicate appearance, it had previously been a toy that the boys would “sail” in the lake in nearby Prospect Park, Ogburn said. The previous rector, the Rev. Peter Cullen, had it restored and re-hung about 10 years ago.

Ogburn took over as rector of the neo-Gothic Anglo-Catholic church about two weeks before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was killing about 700 New York City residents per day by mid-April 2020. He had never heard of votive ships before, and has since been able to find only three others in the U.S.

Last summer, as New York emerged from the worst phase of the pandemic, Ogburn started thinking about how to memorialize those who died. There are already various memorials around the church, including plaques in honor of those who died in wars and the 9/11 attacks.

“This place is riddled with plaques,” Ogburn told ENS. “The last thing we need is another plaque on the wall.”

Looking at the World War I votive ship, with its symbol of hope amid the ordeal of war, “I thought, ‘What if we commissioned a new votive ship in thanksgiving to God for

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having come through this great ordeal, which has been COVID?”

Ogburn asked parishioner Michael Miller – who uses a workshop in the church basement for woodworking projects in exchange for doing some maintenance work – to build the ship. Since it was going to be built entirely by hand, not from a kit, they had to decide what kind of ship it would be. Another parishioner suggested they model it after the Irish-English explorer Ernest Shackleton’s ship, the aptly named Endurance.

The voyage of the Endurance is one of the most legendary tales of heroic leadership and survival against overwhelming odds. Shackleton and 27 other men set out on the Endurance in 1914, intending to complete the first land crossing of Antarctica. The ship became trapped in sea ice and sank, and the team drifted on ice for months before sailing lifeboats to an uninhabited island. Shackleton and five others then sailed one of the lifeboats 800 miles to a whaling station and organized a rescue operation to save the other men, all of whom had survived, a year and a half after the Endurance had gotten stuck.

The Endurance seemed the perfect ship to model the votive ship after, Miller and Ogburn thought, because it represented perseverance through great hardship, right down to its very name. The votive ship was not meant to be an exact replica of the Endurance, but an example of the type of ship the Endurance was: a barquentine schooner. But Miller did incorporate one specific detail he encountered in his research. The Endurance also carried dozens of sled

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dogs and a pet cat named Mrs. Chippy. Miller included a tiny dog and cat on the deck in their honour...

...The ship was blessed and dedicated in November, and some of the parishioners put together a small display about the Endurance and the tradition of votive ships in Europe and at St. Paul's. At the time, the fate of the Endurance itself had remained unknown ever since it was swallowed up by the sea ice in 1915, despite many searches for the wreck.

But just a few months later, on March 5, it was found by the search expedition Endurance22. Lying nearly 10,000 feet under the Weddell Sea, the ship was remarkably intact, having been preserved by the frigid waters.

In the media

“There are no borders in nature”: climate change resistance on the island of Ireland

The Detail

While the island of Ireland has so far been spared similar catastrophic wildfires and deadly floods seen in other parts of the world, the effects of climate change can already “be clearly seen”, according to the Geological Survey Ireland, a division of the Republic’s Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).

They have monitored diverse and wide ranging impacts on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources, including how rising temperatures have affected farmers, and the increased frequency and impact of storms in the past decades.



Similarly, a major report from Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released in August issued stark warnings about the severe effects climate change will have across the island in the future.

[[] https://www.thedetail.tv/articles/there-are-no-borders-in-nature-climate-change-resistance-on-the-island-of-ireland?utm_]

Church of England accuses Boris Johnson of 'disgraceful slur' against Archbishop of Canterbury

The Independent

The prime minister on Tuesday tried to delegitimise Justin Welby's criticism of the government's deportation policy ·

[[] <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/church-of-england-boris-johnson-archbishop-of-canterbury-slur-b2061331.html>]

Boris Johnson criticism of archbishop of Canterbury 'a disgraceful slur'

The Guardian

The Church of England's head of news, John Bingham, said if the reports of Johnson's behind-closed-doors comment were true it was a “disgraceful ...

[[] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/20/boris-johnson-criticism-of-archbishop-of-canterbury-a-disgraceful-slur>]

Poem for today

Spring in Belfast by Derek Mahon

Walking among my own this windy morning
In a tide of sunlight between shower and shower,
I resume my old conspiracy with the wet
Stone and the unwieldy images of the squinting heart.
Once more, as before, I remember not to forget.

There is a perverse pride in being on the side
Of the fallen angels and refusing to get up.
We could all be saved by keeping an eye on the hill
At the top of every street, for there it is,
Eternally, if irrelevantly, visible —

But yield instead to the humorous formulae,
The spurious mystery in the knowing nod;
Or we keep sullen silence in light and shade,
Rehearsing our astute salvations under

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The cold gaze of a sanctimonious God.

One part of my mind must learn to know its place.
The things that happen in the kitchen houses
And echoing back streets of this desperate city
Should engage more than my casual interest,
Exact more interest than my casual pity.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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